PHILIPPE THIRAULT • ROBERTO ZAGHI

MAKHNO

UKRAINIAN FREEDOM FIGHTER

Life Drawn by Humanoids

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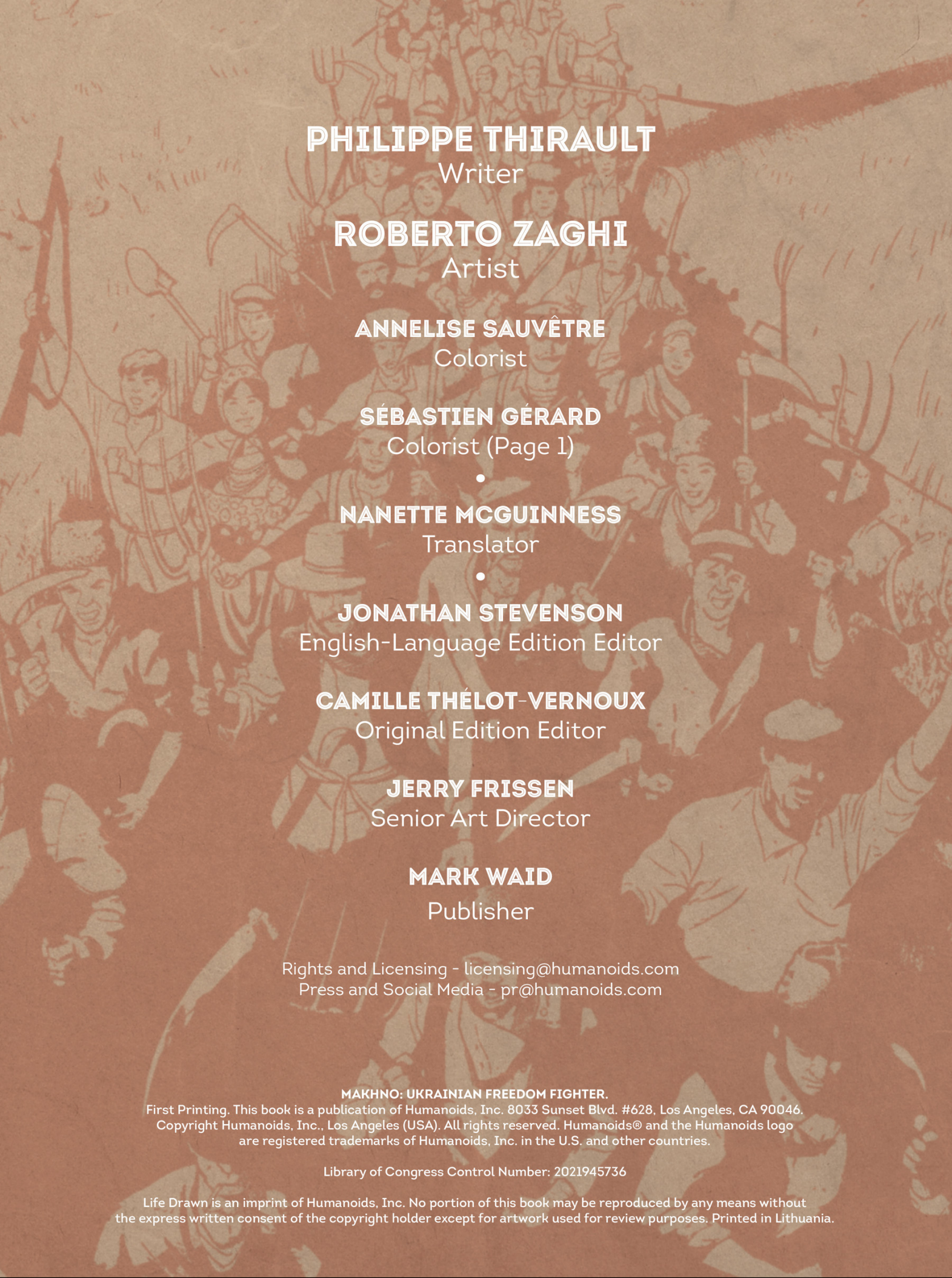

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MAKHNO: UKRAINIAN FREEDOM FIGHTER.
First Printing. This book is a publication of Humanoids, Inc. 8033 Sunset Blvd. #628, Los Angeles, CA 90046.

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Library of Congress Control Number: 2021945736

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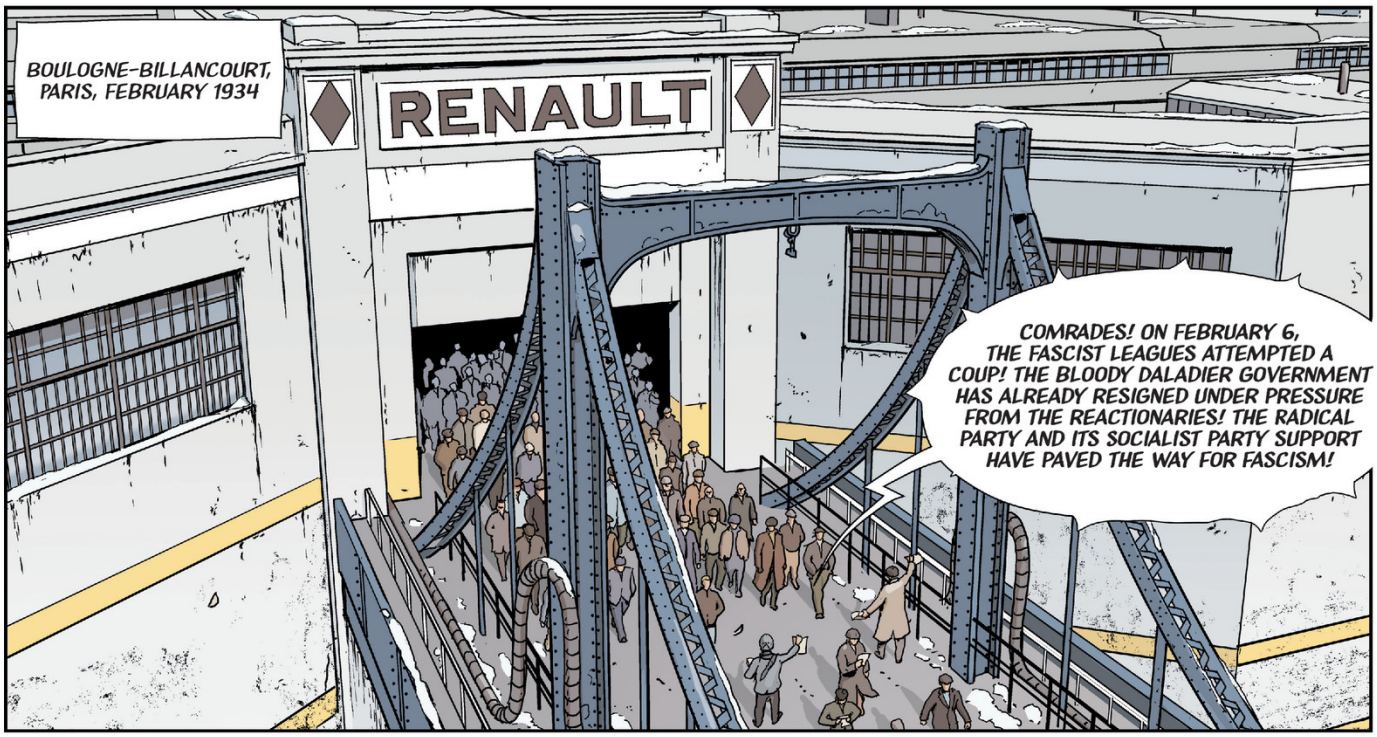
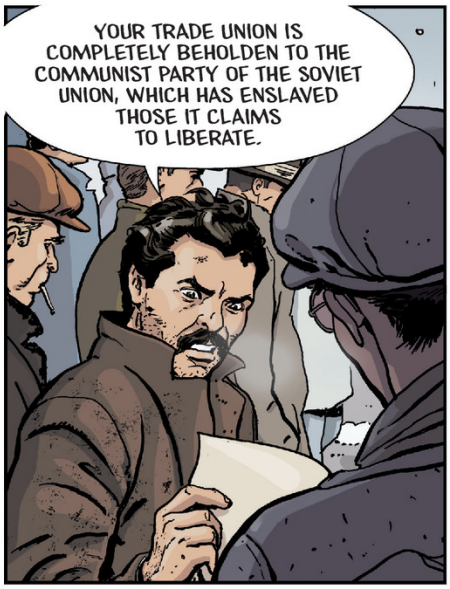

BOULOGNE-BILLANCOURT, PARIS, FEBRUARY 1934
RENAULT
COMRADES! ON FEBRUARY 6, THE FASCIST LEAGUES ATTEMPTED A COUP! THE BLOODY DALADIER GOVERNMENT HAS ALREADY RESIGNED UNDER PRESSURE FROM THE REACTIONARIES! THE RADICAL PARTY AND ITS SOCIALIST PARTY SUPPORT HAVE PAVED THE WAY FOR FASCISM!

EVER AT THE FOREFRONT OF THE MASSES, THE CGTU* AND THE COMMUNIST PARTY HAVE ORGANIZED A PROTEST AT THE PLACE DE LA NATION, CALLING FOR A GENERAL STRIKE!


YOUR TRADE UNION IS COMPLETELY BEHOLDEN TO THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF THE SOVIET UNION, WHICH HAS ENSLAVED THOSE IT CLAIMS TO LIBERATE.

* UNITED GENERAL CONFEDERATION OF LABOR.

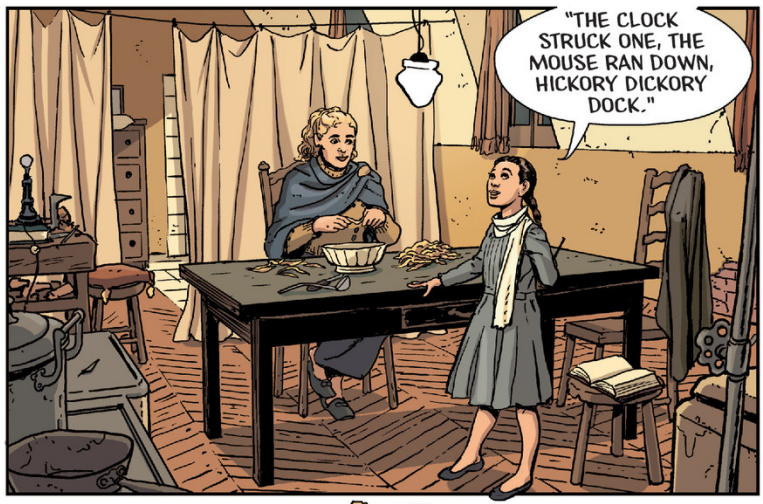
ARGH!
NO, YOU'RE GOING TO SHUT UP.
COWARD! COMMIE PROPAGANDA ISN'T GOING TO TEACH YOU BRAVERY.
OKAY, OKAY... LET GO AND WE'LL LEAVE YOU ALONE.
GOOD GOD!
IT'S HIM--IT'S MAKHNO! HE DOESN'T LOOK WELL, BUT IT'S DEFINITELY HIM.
IT'S UP TO YOU NOW, ZIMORSKY.* YOU HAVE TO KILL HIM. IT'S AN ORDER FROM STALIN, HIMSELF.
NO, I BEG YOU! HE'S MY COMRADE IN ARMS, MY CHILDHOOD FRIEND.
IF YOU REFUSE TO DO IT, YOU KNOW WHAT'LL HAPPEN TO YOUR WIFE AND DAUGHTER. THERE'S NO ROOM FOR FEELINGS IN THE GPU.** NOT ONLY WON'T YOU EVER SEE THEM AGAIN, BUT YOU CAN BE SURE THEY'LL DIE A HORRIBLE DEATH.
"FOLLOW HIM."

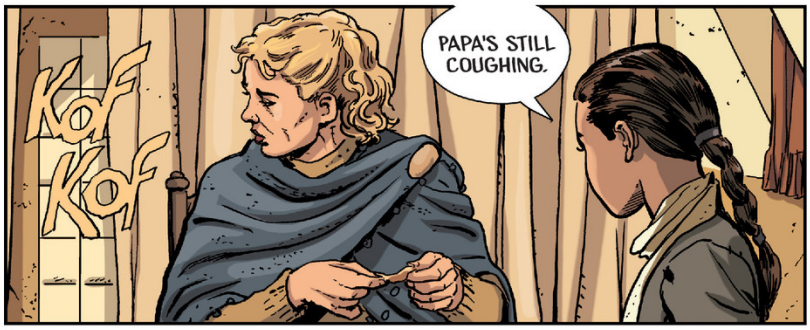
* NAMES AND PLACES ARE IN AUTHENTIC UKRAINIAN RATHER THAN RUSSIAN SPELLINGS.

** STATE POLITICAL DIRECTORATE, SOVIET SECRET POLICE.

VINCENNES, NEAR PARIS

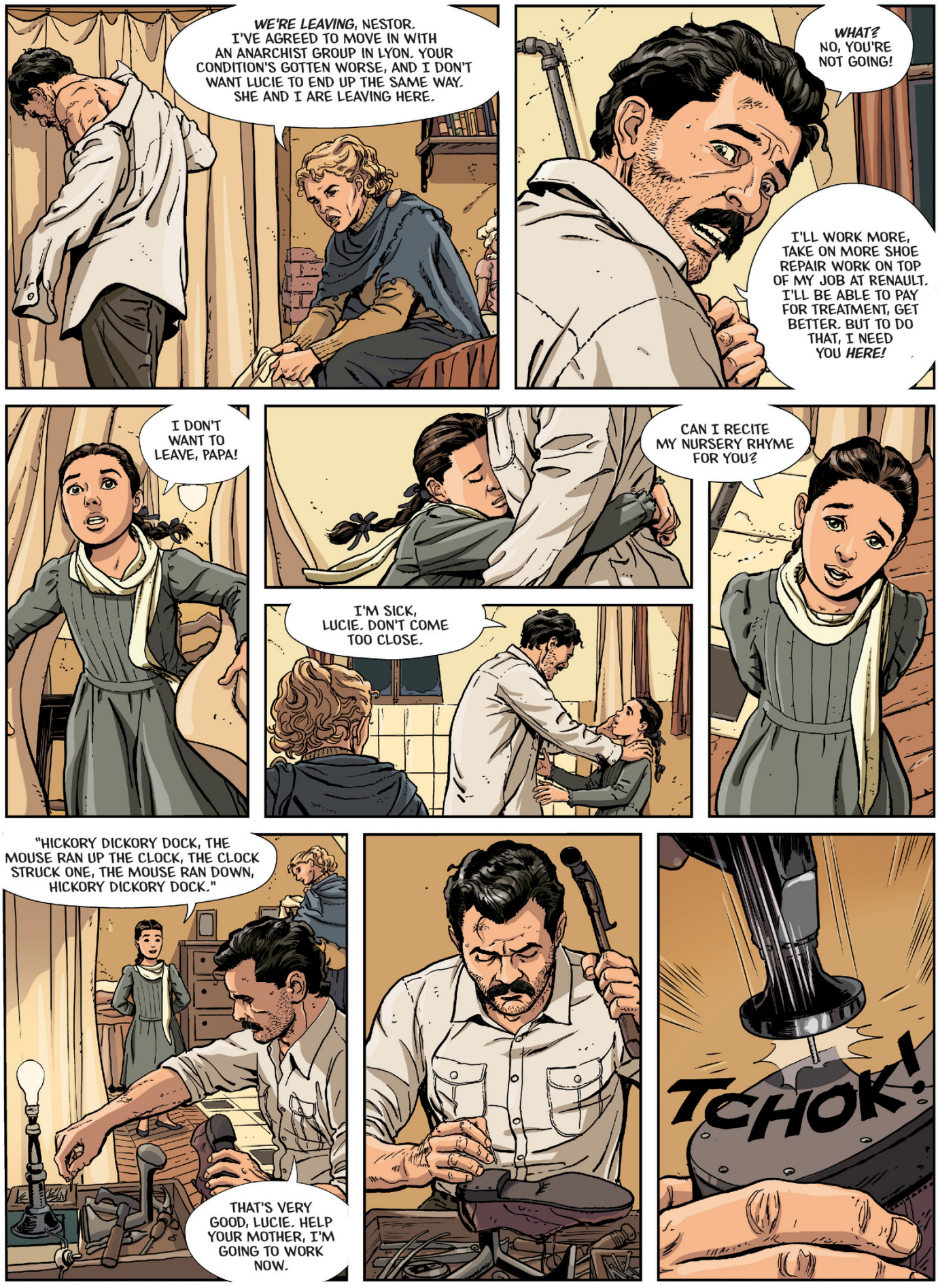
"HICKORY DICKORY DOCK, THE MOUSE RAN UP THE CLOCK.


"THE CLOCK STRUCK ONE, THE MOUSE RAN DOWN, HICKORY DICKORY DOCK."


KOF KOF
PAPA'S STILL COUGHING.

KOF KOF

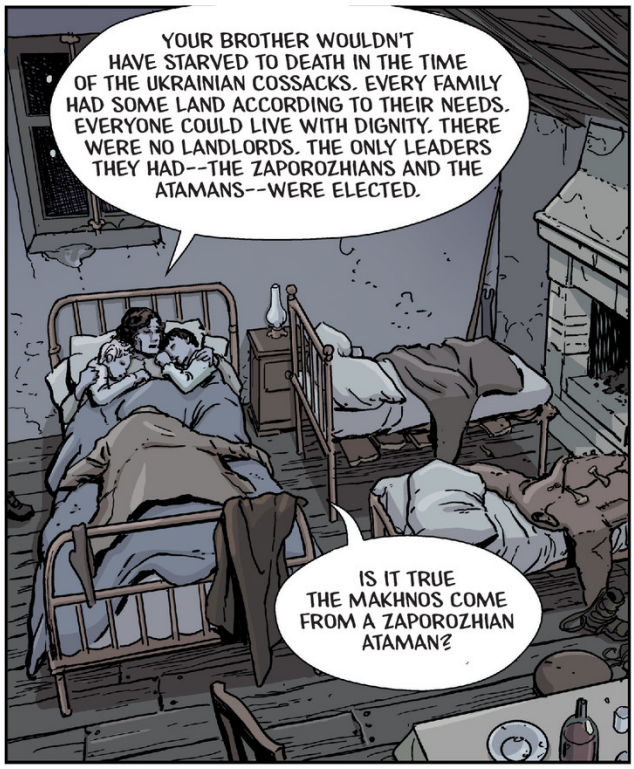
GET OUT. I'LL DRY YOU.


WE'RE LEAVING, NESTOR. I'VE AGREED TO MOVE IN WITH AN ANARCHIST GROUP IN LYON. YOUR CONDITION'S GOTTEN WORSE, AND I DON'T WANT LUCIE TO END UP THE SAME WAY. SHE AND I ARE LEAVING HERE.
WHAT? NO, YOU'RE NOT GOING!
I'LL WORK MORE, TAKE ON MORE SHOE REPAIR WORK ON TOP OF MY JOB AT RENAULT. I'LL BE ABLE TO PAY FOR TREATMENT, GET BETTER. BUT TO DO THAT, I NEED YOU HERE!
I DON'T WANT TO LEAVE, PAPA!
CAN I RECITE MY NURSERY RHYME FOR YOU?
I'M SICK, LUCIE. DON'T COME TOO CLOSE.
"HICKORY DICKORY DOCK, THE MOUSE RAN UP THE CLOCK, THE CLOCK STRUCK ONE, THE MOUSE RAN DOWN, HICKORY DICKORY DOCK."
THAT'S VERY GOOD, LUCIE. HELP YOUR MOTHER, I'M GOING TO WORK NOW.
TCHOK!

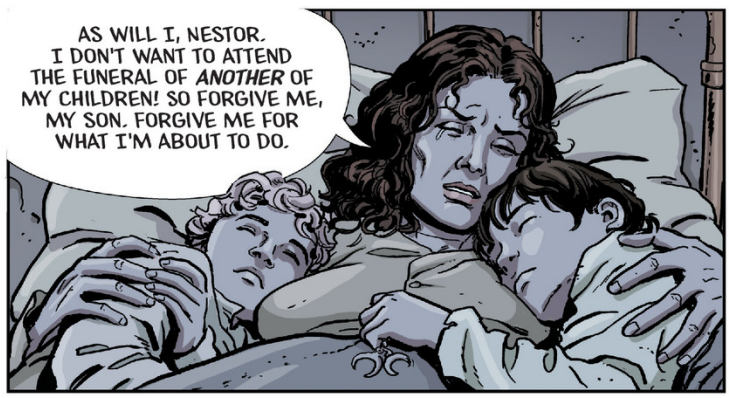
TCHOK!
TCHOK!
TCHOK!
HULIAIPOLE, SOUTHEAST UKRAINE, WINTER 1898
VESNA

SASHA IVANOVITCH MAKHNO
1887
1898

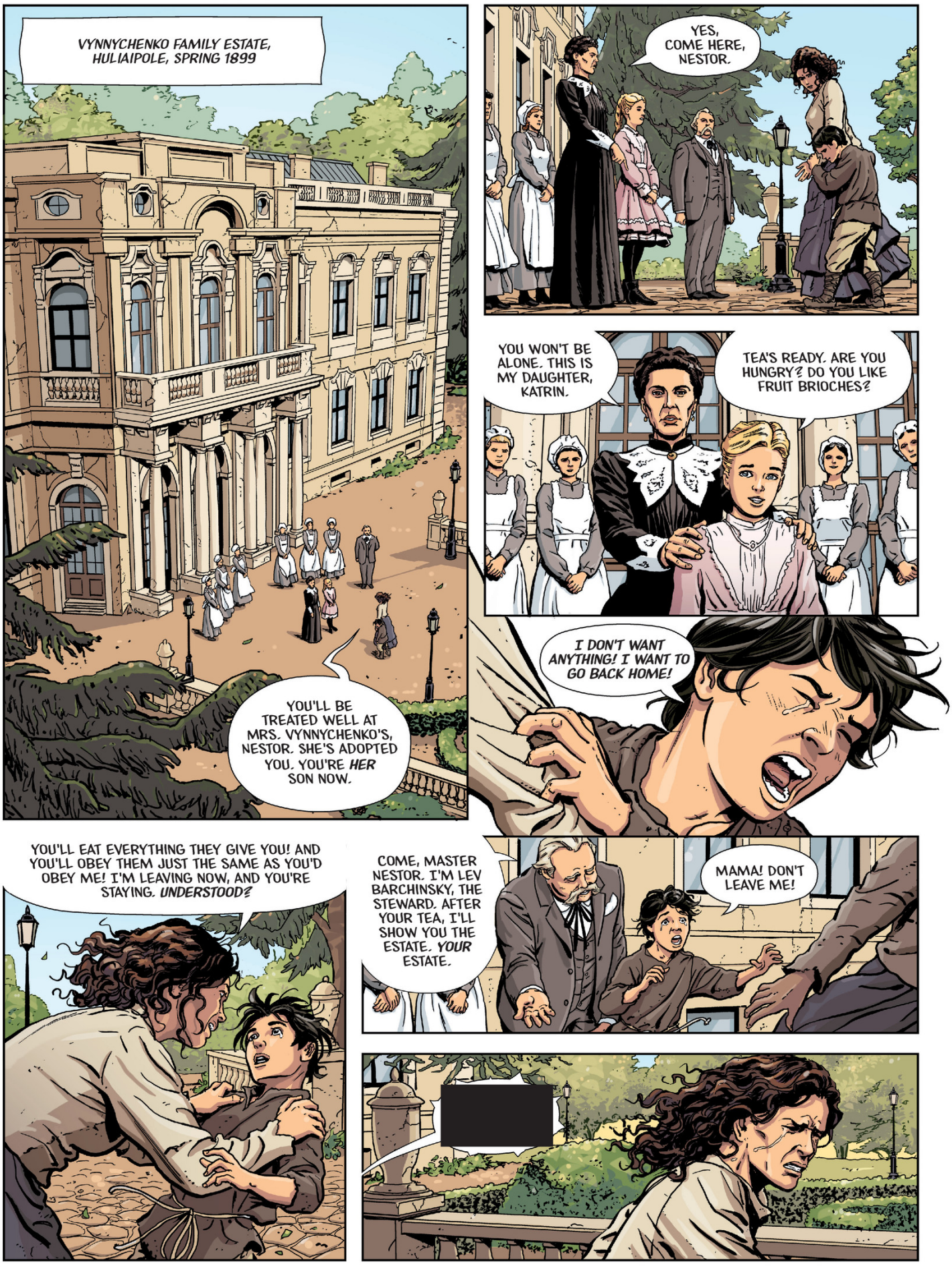
I'M COLD, MAMA.
WE DIDN'T HAVE ANY MORE WOOD, VITALY. COME HERE. GET IN WITH ME.

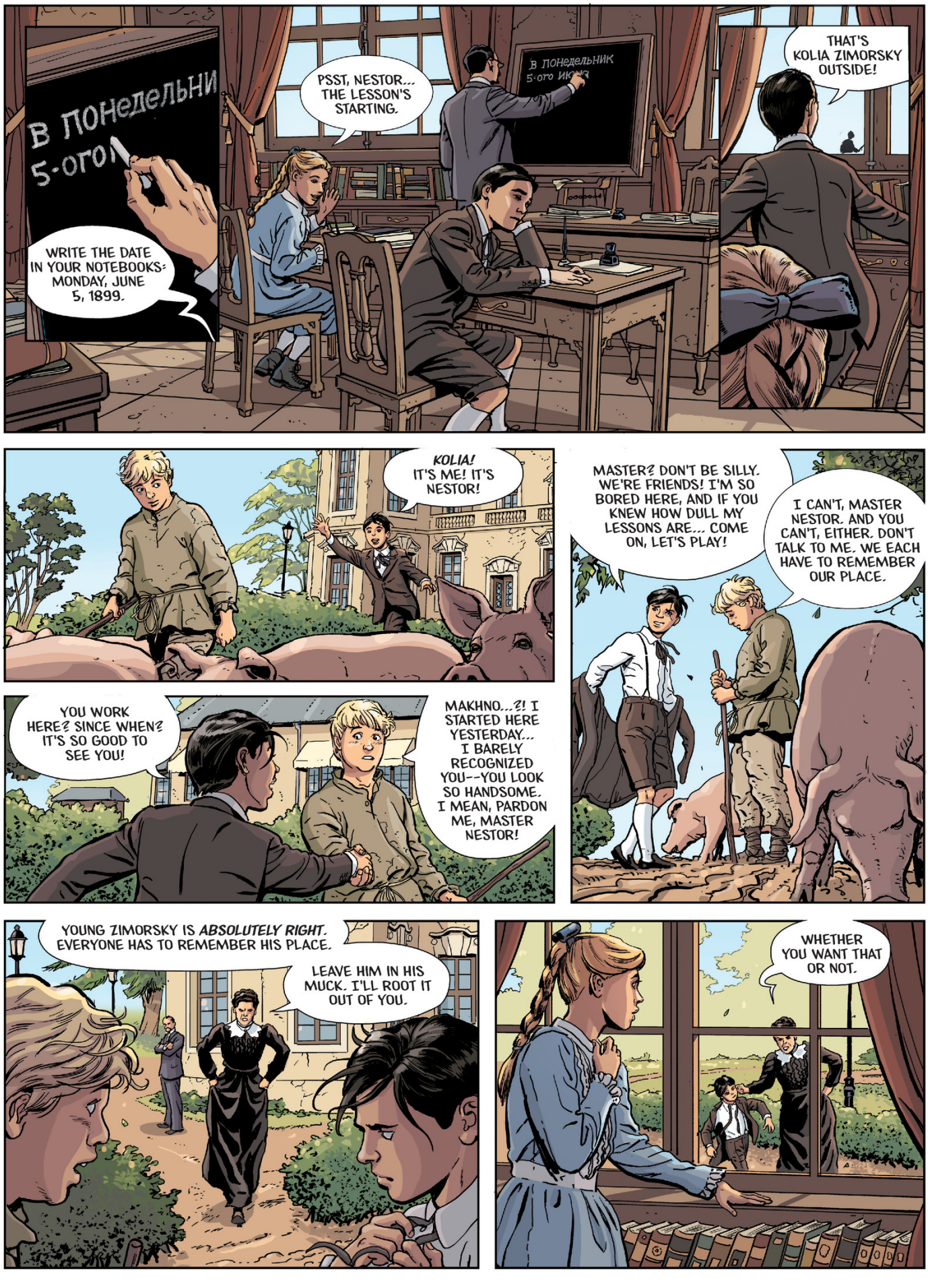

YOUR BROTHER WOULDN'T HAVE STARVED TO DEATH IN THE TIME OF THE UKRAINIAN COSSACKS. EVERY FAMILY HAD SOME LAND ACCORDING TO THEIR NEEDS. EVERYONE COULD LIVE WITH DIGNITY. THERE WERE NO LANDLORDS. THE ONLY LEADERS THEY HAD--THE ZAPOROZHIANS AND THE ATAMANS--WERE ELECTED.
IS IT TRUE THE MAKHNOS COME FROM A ZAPOROZHIAN ATAMAN?

YES, NESTOR. ONLY THE ELECTED COSSACK LEADERS HAD THE RIGHT TO WEAR THESE SILVER CRESCENTS IN THEIR EARS. THEY'VE BEEN IN OUR FAMILY EVER SINCE. THEY WERE FOR SASHA. NOW THEY'LL GO TO YOU. YOU'LL HAVE TO PROVE YOURSELF WORTHY OF THEM.


AS WILL I, NESTOR. I DON'T WANT TO ATTEND THE FUNERAL OF ANOTHER OF MY CHILDREN! SO FORGIVE ME, MY SON. FORGIVE ME FOR WHAT I'M ABOUT TO DO.

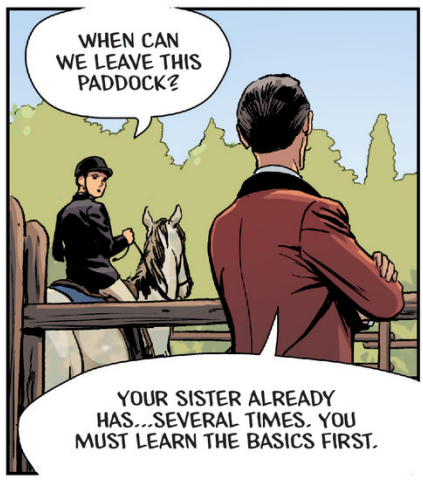
VINCENNES, 1934
WHY WASN'T LUCIE AT SCHOOL, MR. MAKHNO? IS SHE SICK?
WHAT DID YOU SAY?
HALYNA! LUCIE!
"YOU WARNED ME, BUT I DIDN'T BELIEVE YOU.
"THERE WE ARE. NOW YOU'VE ABANDONED ME."


VYNNYCHENKO FAMILY ESTATE, HULIAIPOLE, SPRING 1899
YOU'LL BE TREATED WELL AT MRS. VYNNYCHENKO'S, NESTOR. SHE'S ADOPTED YOU. YOU'RE *HER* SON NOW.
YES, COME HERE, NESTOR.
YOU WON'T BE ALONE. THIS IS MY DAUGHTER, KATRIN.
TEA'S READY. ARE YOU HUNGRY? DO YOU LIKE FRUIT BRIOCHES?
I DON'T WANT ANYTHING! I WANT TO GO BACK HOME!
YOU'LL EAT EVERYTHING THEY GIVE YOU! AND YOU'LL OBEY THEM JUST THE SAME AS YOU'D OBEY ME! I'M LEAVING NOW, AND YOU'RE STAYING. *UNDERSTOOD?*
COME, MASTER NESTOR. I'M LEV BARCHINSKY, THE STEWARD. AFTER YOUR TEA, I'LL SHOW YOU THE ESTATE. *YOUR* ESTATE.
MAMA! DON'T LEAVE ME!


В понедельни
5-ого
WRITE THE DATE IN YOUR NOTEBOOKS: MONDAY, JUNE 5, 1899.
PSST, NESTOR... THE LESSON'S STARTING.
В понедельник
5-ого ИЮНЯ
THAT'S KOLIA ZIMORSKY OUTSIDE!
KOLIA! IT'S ME! IT'S NESTOR!
MASTER? DON'T BE SILLY. WE'RE FRIENDS! I'M SO BORED HERE, AND IF YOU KNEW HOW DULL MY LESSONS ARE... COME ON, LET'S PLAY!
I CAN'T, MASTER NESTOR. AND YOU CAN'T, EITHER. DON'T TALK TO ME. WE EACH HAVE TO REMEMBER OUR PLACE.
YOU WORK HERE? SINCE WHEN? IT'S SO GOOD TO SEE YOU!
MAKHNO...?! I STARTED HERE YESTERDAY... I BARELY RECOGNIZED YOU--YOU LOOK SO HANDSOME. I MEAN, PARDON ME, MASTER NESTOR!
YOUNG ZIMORSKY IS *ABSOLUTELY RIGHT*. EVERYONE HAS TO REMEMBER HIS PLACE.
LEAVE HIM IN HIS MUCK. I'LL ROOT IT OUT OF YOU.
WHETHER YOU WANT THAT OR NOT.

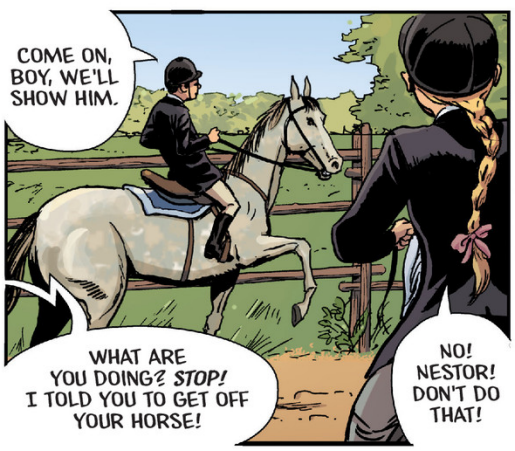
YOU MAY NOT HAVE WANTED TO WEAR THE OUTFIT, BUT YOU LOOK SO HANDSOME IN IT.

REALLY?
YOU WON'T LOOK GOOD AS LONG AS YOU'RE SO SLUMPED OVER. SIT UP STRAIGHT, FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE!


WHEN CAN WE LEAVE THIS PADDOCK?
YOUR SISTER ALREADY HAS...SEVERAL TIMES. YOU MUST LEARN THE BASICS FIRST.

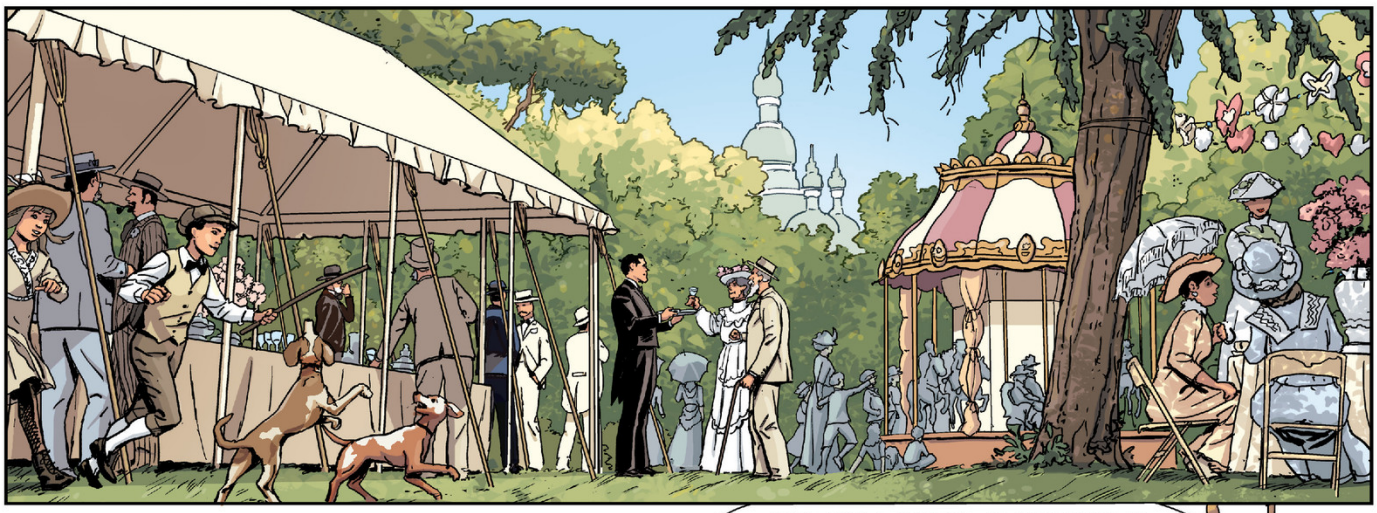
THOSE AREN'T LEARNED. I'M A COSSACK, AND COSSACKS ARE BORN RIDERS! WE DON'T NEED YOUR RULES!

WELL, THE LESSON IS OVER FOR YOU, MR. COSSACK. PLEASE DISMOUNT. I HOPE NEXT TIME YOU'LL HAVE A BETTER ATTITUDE.


COME ON, BOY, WE'LL SHOW HIM.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING? *STOP!* I TOLD YOU TO GET OFF YOUR HORSE!
NO! NESTOR! DON'T DO THAT!

HURRAH!
HA! HA! HA!
STOP AT ONCE! COME BACK! THAT'S GOING TO COST YOU!

THIS IS COLD! TAKE IT AWAY IMMEDIATELY!
OH! MASTER NESTOR...
THEY FORGOT TO SET A PLACE FOR ME.
COME HERE, NESTOR. STAND BEFORE ME.
SO YOU SAY YOU'RE A COSSACK? I'LL SOON KNOCK THAT OUT OF YOU, BOY. I WILL NOT HAVE YOU BEHAVING LIKE A SAVAGE.
UNDERSTOOD?
UNDERSTOOD?
NEXT TIME, I'LL FLOG YOU! DO YOU HEAR?

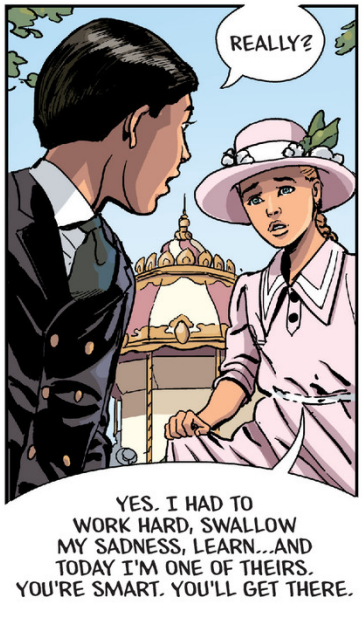


IT'S A PITY THERE ISN'T A TEAM OF OXEN ON THIS CAROUSEL. NESTOR WOULD FEEL MORE AT HOME.

HE'S JUST A GUSSIED-UP FARMHAND IN HIS SUNDAY BEST. NO MATTER HOW MANY BATHS HE TAKES, HE'LL NEVER GET RID OF THAT PEASANT STENCH.
NESTOR, NO!

I SUGGEST YOU KEEP YOUR COMMENTS ABOUT NESTOR TO YOURSELF, UNDERSTAND? HE'S MY BROTHER, AND I WON'T LET YOU INSULT HIM!

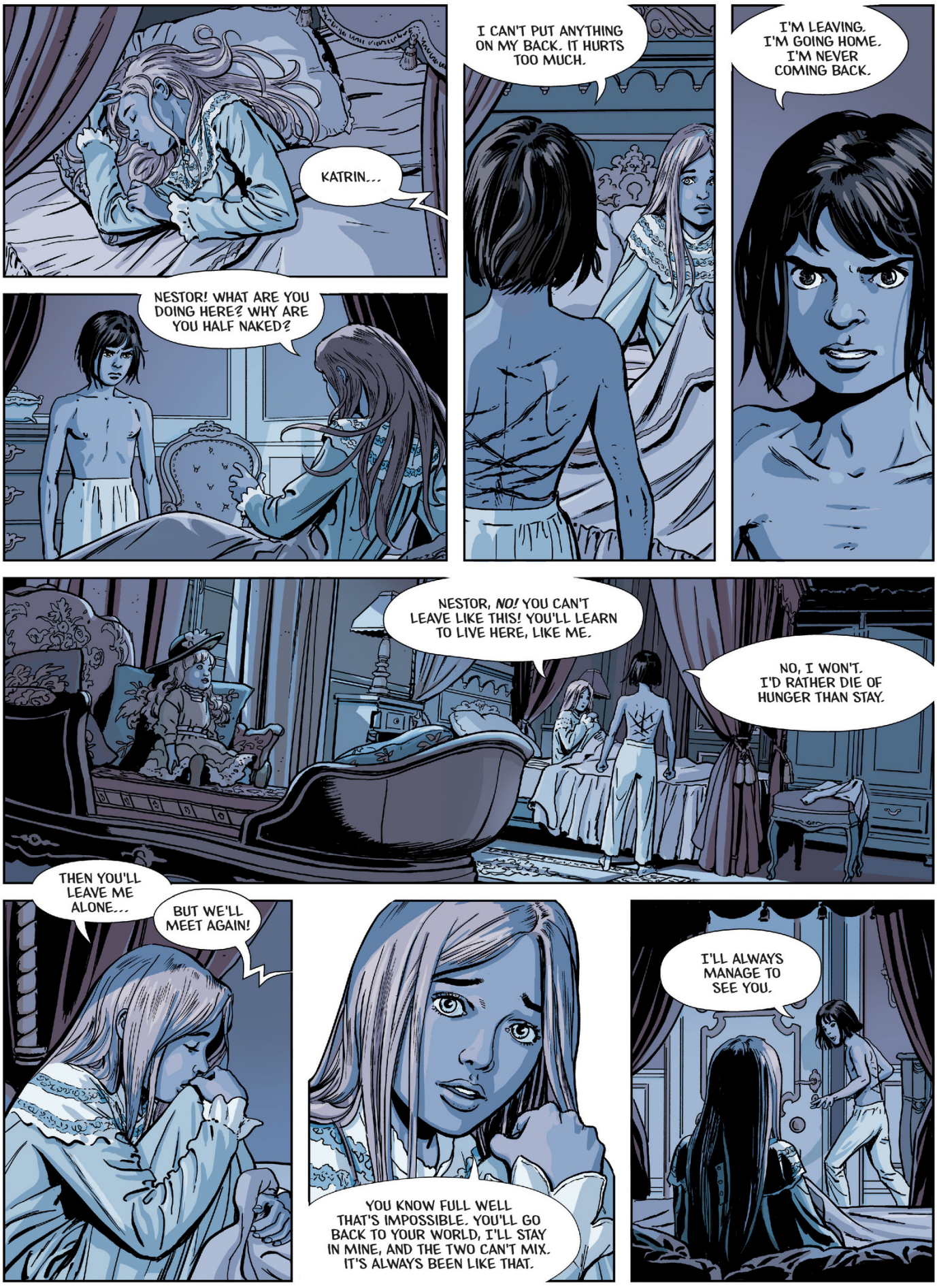
NESTOR! IT TOOK ME AWHILE TO BE ACCEPTED, AS WELL. OUR MOTHER ADOPTED ME, TOO, WHEN I WAS SIX.


REALLY?
YES. I HAD TO WORK HARD, SWALLOW MY SADNESS, LEARN...AND TODAY I'M ONE OF THEIRS. YOU'RE SMART. YOU'LL GET THERE.

I'M NOT INTERESTED. I DON'T WANT TO BE LIKE THEM. THESE CLOTHES THEY GAVE ME ARE TOO TIGHT. I DON'T LIKE THEM. I DON'T LIKE OUR MOTHER.
WHERE ARE YOU GOING? THEY'LL GET WORRIED. COME BACK.

LEAVE ME ALONE!
NESTOR! PLEASE! YOU KNOW WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO YOU!

GOOD EVENING, MOTHER. I WENT HUNTING FOR YOU.
WE'RE GOING TO YOUR ROOM, NESTOR...
AREN'T WE EATING FIRST? I CAN PREPARE THESE THRUSHES. I LEARNED HOW, BUT NOT FROM A BOOK.
UNTIL YOU GET RESPECT AND DISCIPLINE INTO YOUR THICK SKULL, NESTOR...
YOU'LL GET *THIS* IN YOUR FLESH.
MADAME! LEAVE MASTER NESTOR TO ME. I'LL HANDLE HIM.
MOTHER! I BEG YOU! YOU'RE GOING TO KILL HIM!
NESTOR!
CLAC
LEV, GO TELL THE KITCHEN TO SERVE US DINNER.
VERY WELL, MADAME.


KATRIN...
I CAN'T PUT ANYTHING ON MY BACK. IT HURTS TOO MUCH.
I'M LEAVING. I'M GOING HOME. I'M NEVER COMING BACK.
NESTOR! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE? WHY ARE YOU HALF NAKED?
NESTOR, *NO!* YOU CAN'T LEAVE LIKE THIS! YOU'LL LEARN TO LIVE HERE, LIKE ME.
NO, I WON'T. I'D RATHER DIE OF HUNGER THAN STAY.
THEN YOU'LL LEAVE ME ALONE...
BUT WE'LL MEET AGAIN!
YOU KNOW FULL WELL THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE. YOU'LL GO BACK TO YOUR WORLD, I'LL STAY IN MINE, AND THE TWO CAN'T MIX. IT'S ALWAYS BEEN LIKE THAT.
I'LL ALWAYS MANAGE TO SEE YOU.

SIX MONTHS LATER
HI.
DON'T LOOK AT ME. ACT LIKE NOTHING'S GOING ON.
DANIEL'S COMING. HE'LL SEE YOU. GO AWAY, NESTOR.
THE TUTOR'S WAITING FOR US. WHY ARE YOU LATE? DIDN'T YOU HEAR ME CALLING YOU?
I WASN'T PAYING ATTENTION.
YOU SHOULD STOP READING YOUR STUPID NOVELS.
WHO'S THIS DANIEL WHO THINKS HE CAN TALK TO YOU LIKE THAT?
HE'S THE BOY MOTHER JUST ADOPTED.
SHE REPLACED ME QUICKLY... BUT YOU WATCH. THEY CAN'T KEEP US APART.
WE'LL MEET AGAIN SECRETLY. I'LL GET KOLIA TO PASS YOU A MESSAGE. GO ON, GOODBYE.
BE CAREFUL...

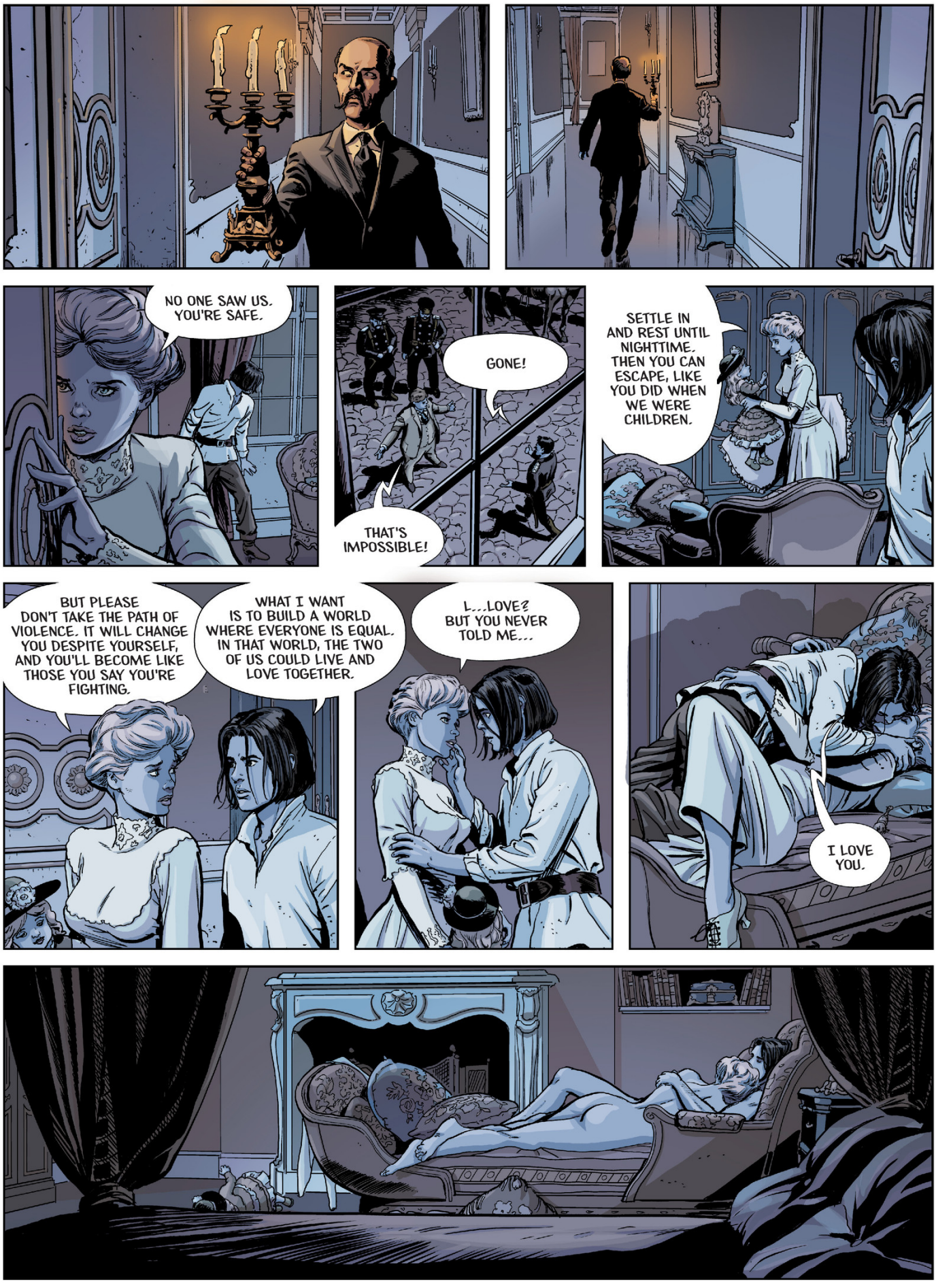
SEVEN YEARS LATER, IN 1907
I'M NEVER VERY FAR AWAY FROM YOU.
YOU ALWAYS HAVE TO SURPRISE ME, SILENTLY, LIKE A CAT...
HAPPY 20TH BIRTHDAY.
NESTOR! IT'S GORGEOUS.
MERCY, MASTER DANIEL! MERCY!
THAT'S ENOUGH, DANIEL!
I CAN'T STAND YOUR CRUELTY ANYMORE!
IT ISN'T CRUELTY; IT'S AUTHORITY. I'M MANAGING AN ESTATE!
DON'T BURY ME TOO QUICKLY, DANIEL. THIS ESTATE IS STILL MINE.
CARRY ZIMORSKY IN AND TEND TO HIM.

GENTLY... GENTLY...
NATASHA, CLEAN HIS WOUNDS.
HE'S A BLOODY MESS.
ARE YOU GOING TO TOLERATE THIS MUCH LONGER?
TODAY IT'S KOLIA. TOMORROW IT'LL BE SOMEONE ELSE...
WHO HERE HASN'T HE HIT? *WHO?*
HOW MUCH *MORE* ARE YOU WILLING TO SUFFER? THAT'S ENOUGH! HE MUST *PAY!*
I'M GOING TO MAKE YOU DANCE, GUTTERSNIPE!

NO!
YOU WON'T TOUCH *ME!*
SEIZE *HIM!*
NO! SEIZE *HIM!*
WE'LL JUDGE HIM. EVERYONE WILL STATE THEIR GRIEVANCES, AND HE'LL PAY WITH HIS FLESH FOR EACH INSULT HE'S UTTERED, EVERY BLOW HE'S STRUCK.
CAREFUL! YOU KNOW WHAT AWAITS REBELLIOUS WORKERS? *THE NOOSE!* AND YOUR FAMILIES WILL BE THROWN OUT OF THEIR HOMES, INTO THE *STREET!*
OUT! EVERYONE OUT! THAT'S AN ORDER!
YOU ASK THE IMPOSSIBLE. WHAT WOULD BECOME OF THEM?
THEY'LL BE *EXAMPLES!* OTHER MUZHYKS* ON OTHER ESTATES WILL REBEL, DEMAND JUSTICE. WE'LL HELP THEM.
LEV, THERE'S NO POINT TALKING TO THIS SCUM. YOU LEAVE, TOO.
YOU'LL STAY LOCKED IN. THE POLICE WILL COME TO PICK YOU UP.
TLAC

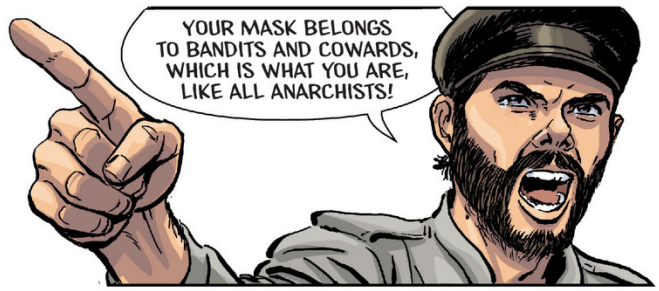
* PEASANTS/WORKERS.

NO! DON'T LET HIM DO THIS! OPEN UP!
THERE ARE *TWENTY* OF US AND ONE OF HIM! *OPEN IT!*
NESTOR... C... COME...
YOU CAN LEAVE... A WAY OUT... BEHIND...
IT'S LOCKED, TOO!
WHAT...?
SHHHH, NESTOR. COME WITH ME.


NO ONE SAW US. YOU'RE SAFE.
GONE!
THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE!
SETTLE IN AND REST UNTIL NIGHTTIME. THEN YOU CAN ESCAPE, LIKE YOU DID WHEN WE WERE CHILDREN.
BUT PLEASE DON'T TAKE THE PATH OF VIOLENCE. IT WILL CHANGE YOU DESPITE YOURSELF, AND YOU'LL BECOME LIKE THOSE YOU SAY YOU'RE FIGHTING.
WHAT I WANT IS TO BUILD A WORLD WHERE EVERYONE IS EQUAL. IN THAT WORLD, THE TWO OF US COULD LIVE AND LOVE TOGETHER.
L...LOVE? BUT YOU NEVER TOLD ME...
I LOVE YOU.

KULAK JANSSEN ESTATE IN HULIAIPOLE, A YEAR LATER, IN 1908
COMRADES! JUST AGRARIAN REFORM CAN HAPPEN ONLY WITH THE END OF TSARIST RULE AND THE RISE OF THE SOCIAL REPUBLIC!
JOIN OUR RANKS, COMRADES.
ONLY OUR SOCIALIST REVOLUTIONARY PARTY WILL BE ABLE TO INFLUENCE KYIV AND MOSCOW!

SOCIALIST REVOLUTIONARIES... THERE'S NOTHING SOCIALIST ABOUT YOU EXCEPT YOUR *WORDS*. YOU'RE A FALSE REVOLUTIONARY! THE REAL REVOLUTION WILL BE OF LIBERTARIAN COMMUNISM OR NOT AT ALL!



THE REVOLUTION ISN'T CRIME; IT ISN'T TERRORISM. WE MUST RESPECT PROPERTY OR ELSE EVERYTHING WILL BECOME CHAOS.
BUT THEN NOTHING WILL EVER CHANGE!

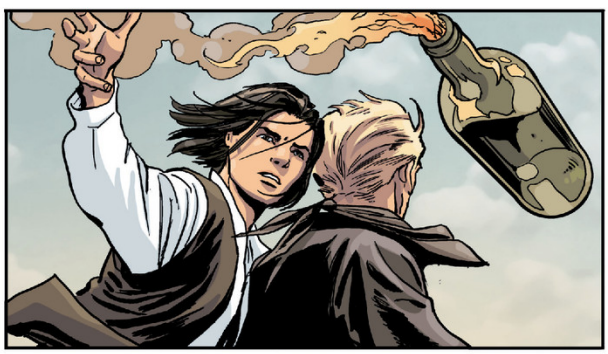
* A PEASANT WHO OWNS SEVERAL ACRES AND EMPLOYS OTHER PEOPLE TO WORK THE LAND.

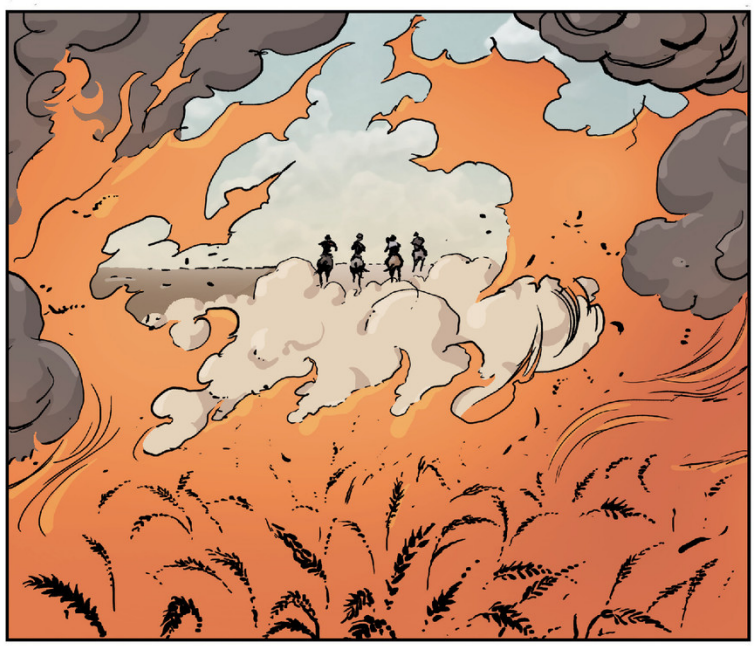
LET'S GO!
AAH!

IF YOU TRULY WANT THINGS TO CHANGE, YOU SHOULD JOIN *US*. WE FIGHT THE PARASITES: THE TSAR, THE BOURGEOISIE, AND THEIR SERVANTS.

WE'VE LOST A COMRADE. COME, YOU'LL REPLACE HIM.

THIS FIELD BELONGS TO THAT KULAK. ARE YOU GOING TO SET IT ON FIRE?

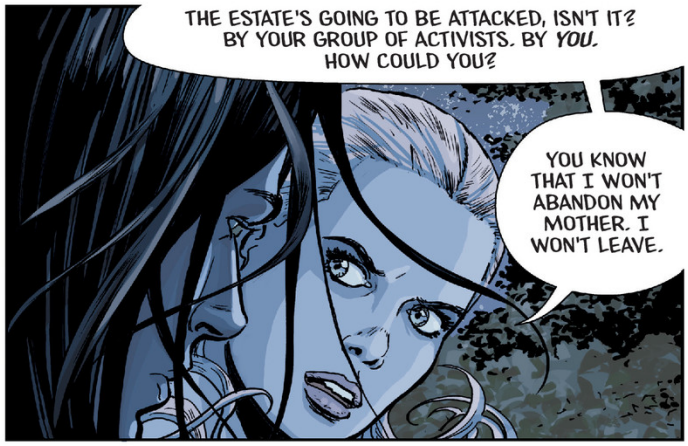




HERE'S MY FINAL WEDDING PRESENT TO YOU: HER NAME'S ALIZ. SHE'S A HUNGARIAN THOROUGHBRED.
SHE'S BEAUTIFUL, FATHER!
PAW!
PAW!
LOCK THEM IN THE STABLES!
THIS OBSCENE PARTY AND ITS PARTICIPANTS DESERVE THE PEOPLE'S EXPROPRIATION. INSTEAD OF BEING THROWN OUT OR ENDING UP IN YOUR ALREADY-FULL STOMACHS, THE FOOD WILL GO TO THE NEEDY.
WE'LL TAKE ALL YOUR JEWELRY, TOO.
I'VE GOT A BETTER ONE.
MAKHNO, JUMP ON!

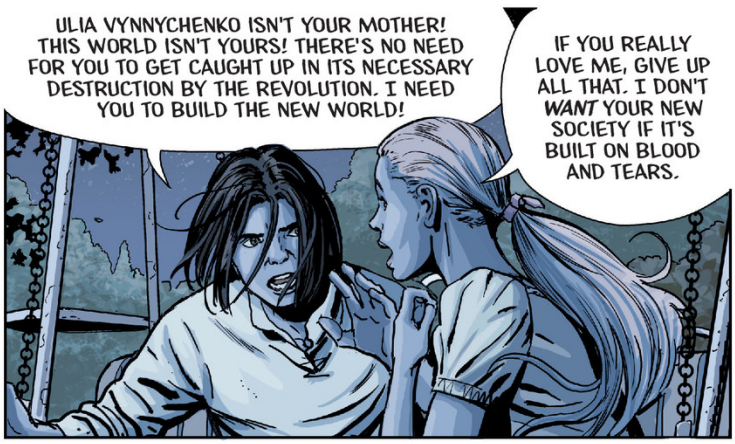
DON'T DAWDLE, PEOPLE. IT'S GETTING COLD!
THANKS!
THAT WENT WELL, BUT WE ALREADY NEED TO START THINKING ABOUT WHAT'S NEXT. THEY MUST *NEVER* REST. THEY MUST ALWAYS LOOK OVER THEIR SHOULDERS IN FEAR!
THE NEXT EXPROPRIATION WILL BE ULIA VYNNYCHENKO'S ESTATE.
AND THIS TIME, WE WON'T SETTLE FOR TAKING THE GOODS FROM THESE DISGUSTING KULAKS. WE'LL TAKE THEIR *LIVES*, TOO!
YES, LAZAROV! WE'LL TAKE THAT OLD BITCH ULIA! WE'LL TEAR HER BULLY SON APART!
WE'LL RAPE HER DAUGHTER!

KATRIN...I CAME TO WARN YOU. YOU MUSTN'T BE ON THE ESTATE ON FRIDAY. *LEAVE*--PRETEND TO GO FOR A VISIT, WHATEVER YOU WANT, BUT *DON'T* BE HERE.


THE ESTATE'S GOING TO BE ATTACKED, ISN'T IT? BY YOUR GROUP OF ACTIVISTS. BY *YOU*. HOW COULD YOU?
YOU KNOW THAT I WON'T ABANDON MY MOTHER. I WON'T LEAVE.

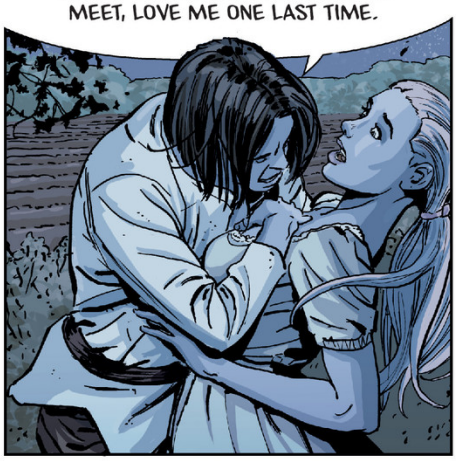
ULIA VYNNYCHENKO ISN'T YOUR MOTHER! THIS WORLD ISN'T YOURS! THERE'S NO NEED FOR YOU TO GET CAUGHT UP IN ITS NECESSARY DESTRUCTION BY THE REVOLUTION. I NEED YOU TO BUILD THE NEW WORLD!

IF YOU REALLY LOVE ME, GIVE UP ALL THAT. I DON'T *WANT* YOUR NEW SOCIETY IF IT'S BUILT ON BLOOD AND TEARS.

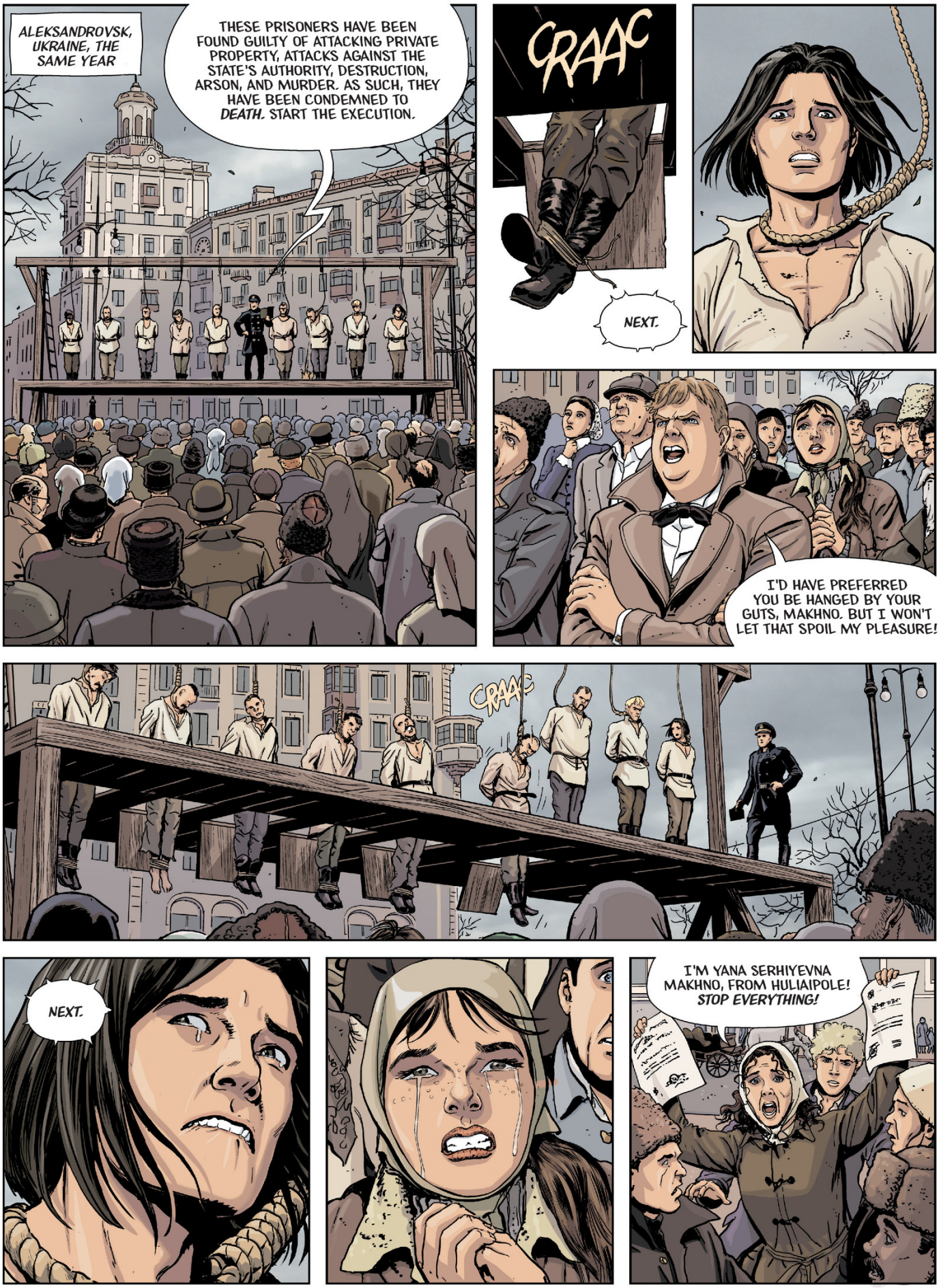


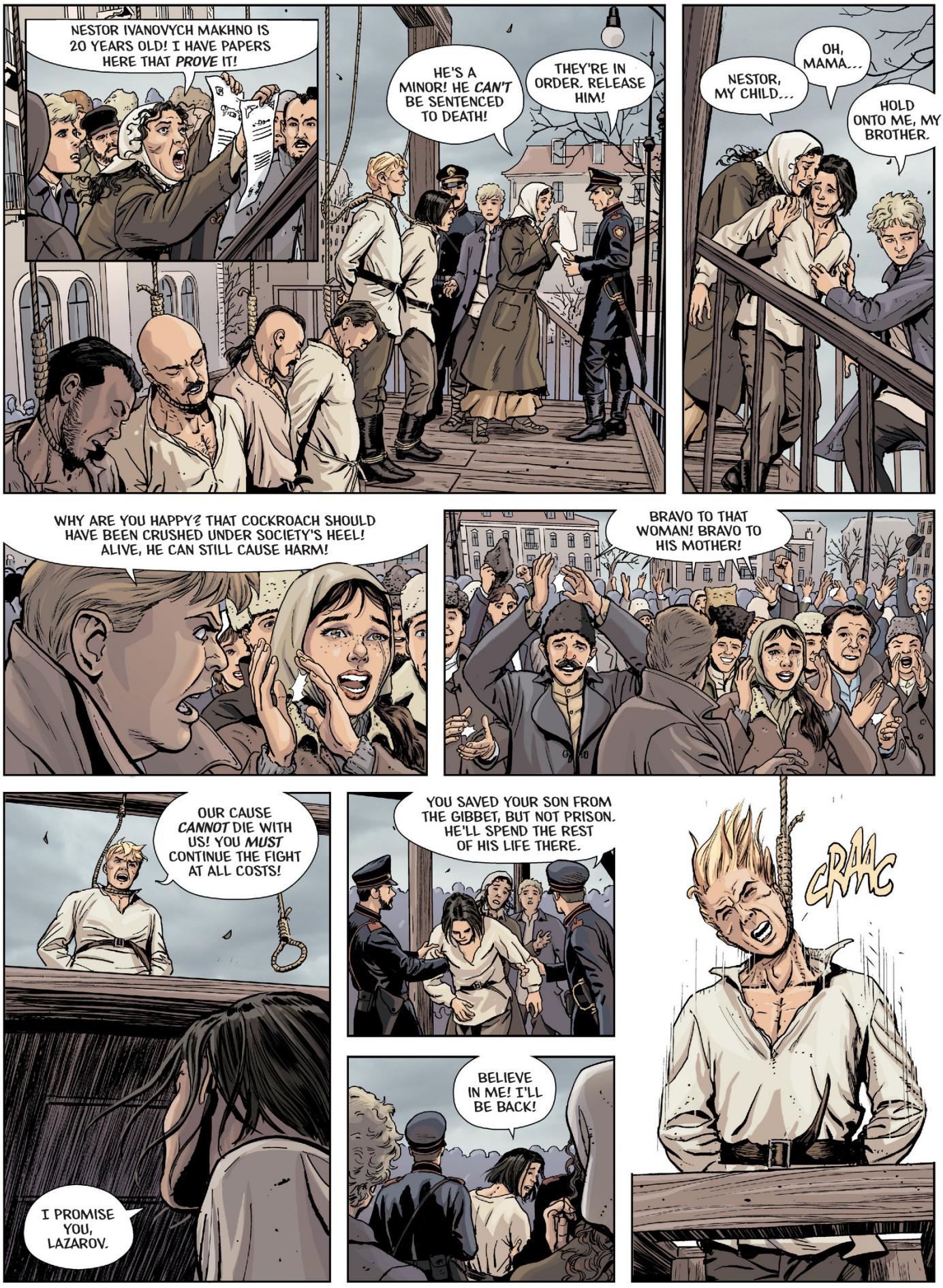
SO YOU'LL BETRAY ME AND TURN US ALL IN?
HOW CAN YOU THINK THAT? I'LL *NEVER* BETRAY YOU! I'LL LOVE YOU ALL MY LIFE, EVEN IF THIS IS THE LAST WE EVER SEE OF EACH OTHER.

THEN IF THIS IS THE LAST TIME WE MEET, LOVE ME ONE LAST TIME.



TWO DAYS LATER
IT'S TIME TO EXPROPRIATE THIS SHAMEFUL ESTATE. WE'LL DESTROY ITS OWNERS.
PUT YOUR MASKS ON. MOVE OUT!
STOP THAT RABBLE!
WE'VE BEEN EXPECTING YOU.
YOU SCUM!
BASTARDS!
I'LL ALWAYS BE YOUR MASTER, MAKHNO!


ALEKSANDROVSK, UKRAINE, THE SAME YEAR
THESE PRISONERS HAVE BEEN FOUND GUILTY OF ATTACKING PRIVATE PROPERTY, ATTACKS AGAINST THE STATE'S AUTHORITY, DESTRUCTION, ARSON, AND MURDER. AS SUCH, THEY HAVE BEEN CONDEMNED TO *DEATH.* START THE EXECUTION.
CRAAC
NEXT.
I'D HAVE PREFERRED YOU BE HANGED BY YOUR GUTS, MAKHNO. BUT I WON'T LET THAT SPOIL MY PLEASURE!
CRAAC
NEXT.
I'M YANA SERHIYEVNA MAKHNO, FROM HULIAIPOLE! *STOP EVERYTHING!*


NESTOR IVANOVYCH MAKHNO IS 20 YEARS OLD! I HAVE PAPERS HERE THAT *PROVE* IT!
HE'S A MINOR! HE *CAN'T* BE SENTENCED TO DEATH!
THEY'RE IN ORDER. RELEASE HIM!
NESTOR, MY CHILD...
OH, MAMA...
HOLD ONTO ME, MY BROTHER.
WHY ARE YOU HAPPY? THAT COCKROACH SHOULD HAVE BEEN CRUSHED UNDER SOCIETY'S HEEL! ALIVE, HE CAN STILL CAUSE HARM!
BRAVO TO THAT WOMAN! BRAVO TO HIS MOTHER!
OUR CAUSE *CANNOT* DIE WITH US! YOU *MUST* CONTINUE THE FIGHT AT ALL COSTS!
I PROMISE YOU, LAZAROV.
YOU SAVED YOUR SON FROM THE GIBBET, BUT NOT PRISON. HE'LL SPEND THE REST OF HIS LIFE THERE.
BELIEVE IN ME! I'LL BE BACK!
CRAAC

MOSCOW, BUTYRKA POLITICAL PRISON, A FEW MONTHS LATER
I'LL GIVE YOU TWO MINUTES TO TALK TO THE LITTLE UKRAINIAN ANARCHIST. BUT I WARN YOU: HE'S MAD. DON'T PUT YOUR HAND BETWEEN THE BARS. HE'S LIABLE TO RIP IT OFF.
MAKHNO! UP!
I'M PIOTR ANDREYEVICH ARSHINOV. I'M AN INMATE HERE, AND I HANDLE THE SUPPORT NETWORK FOR ANARCHIST PRISONERS. IF YOU KEEP ACTING LIKE A HOTHEAD, THEY'LL SMASH YOUR SKULL IN. THEY WILL KILL YOU. THAT'S NOT WHAT YOU WANT, IS IT?
THOSE RUSSIAN PIGS RIPPED ME AWAY FROM MY FAMILY, MY LAND, AND THE REVOLUTION. BUT I INTEND TO ESCAPE AND GO BACK TO UKRAINE.
I'LL ARRANGE FOR YOU TO JOIN MY CELL.
READ THIS WHILE YOU'RE WAITING. IT'S THE WORK OF A GREAT ANARCHIST THINKER. THIS WILL HELP YOU HOLD ON. I'LL HAVE OTHERS PASSED TO YOU.
I HATE BOOKS, BUT THEY DON'T GIVE US ANYTHING TO WIPE OUR ASSES WITH. SO IT'LL COME IN HANDY.
TIME TO GO, ARSHINOV.

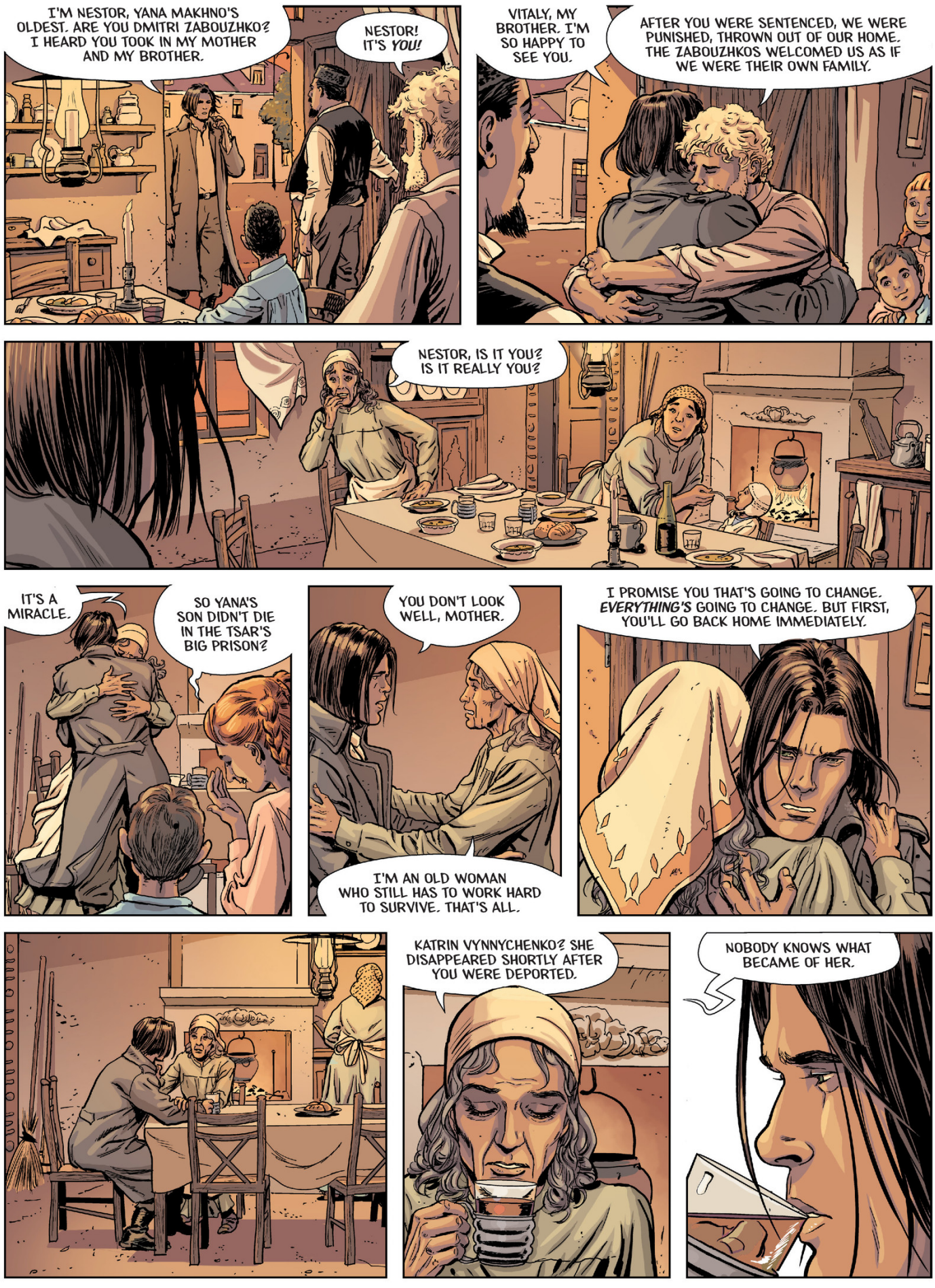
PYOTR KROPOTKINE
Mutual Aid: A Factor of Evolutio
HERE'S NESTOR MAKHNO. PUTTING A WILD BEAST INTO YOUR OWN CAGE... GOOD LUCK, ARSHINOV.
WITH THESE SHACKLES ON, HE WON'T BE SO KEEN TO ESCAPE.
I'M IVAN MYKHAILOVYCH ZADOV. LET ME HELP YOU CHANGE THAT SHIRT.
THIS IS A NICE CELL OF INTELLECTUALS... EVEN IN PRISON, THE PRIVILEGED KEEP THEIR PRIVILEGES.
SINCE YOU SAY YOU'RE AN ANARCHIST, YOU SHOULD KNOW THIS ONE. WHAT I WANT TO PUT IN YOUR HANDS--ALL THE WORKS IN THIS LIBRARY--ARE MORE THAN BOOKS. THEY'RE WEAPONS. YOU'LL SEE THAT RUSSIANS AREN'T ALL BAD.
YES, THEY ARE.

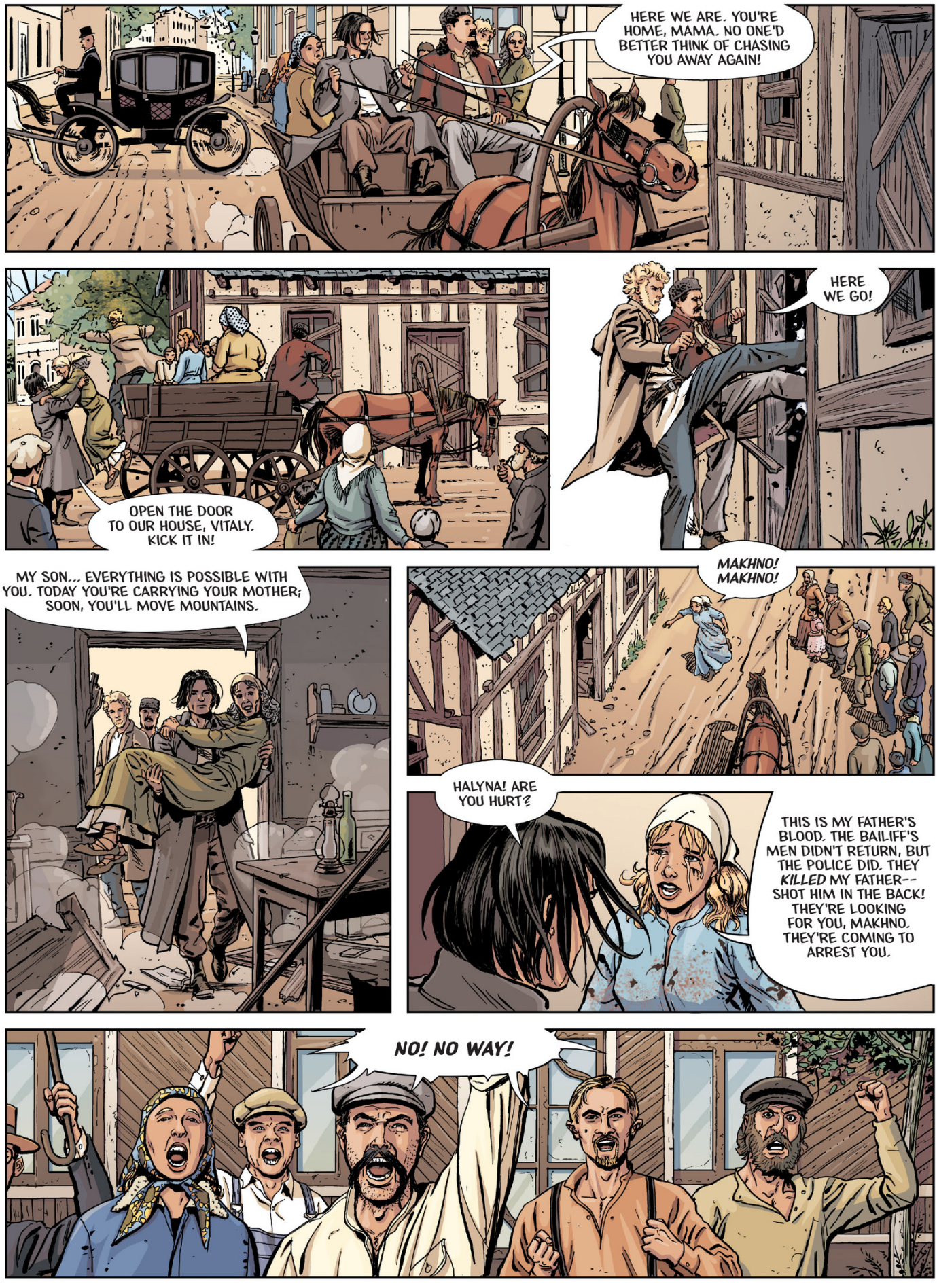
VINCENNES, 1934
I'LL MAKE THEM COME BACK.
TCHOK TCHOK TCHOK
BOM BOM
KOLIA! KOLIA ZIMORSKY!
YES, NESTOR, IT'S ME!
I THOUGHT YOU'D DIED LONG AGO. WHAT A JOY! IT WARMS MY HEART MORE THAN YOU CAN IMAGINE!
I JUST ARRIVED IN PARIS. THE MUTUAL AID SOCIETY FOR ANARCHISTS IN EXILE IN PARIS GAVE ME YOUR ADDRESS, YOURS AND HALYNA'S.
I'VE LIVED IN PARIS FOR NINE YEARS. WHERE'VE YOU BEEN ALL THIS TIME?
I TOOK REFUGE IN HUNGARY AFTER THE MAKHNOVSHCHINA DEFEAT. BUT STALIN'S POLICE WERE ON MY TRAIL, SAW THROUGH MY ALIAS. I WAS ONLY ABLE TO SAVE MYSELF BY FLEEING ACROSS EUROPE.
WON'T YOU JOIN ME FOR A DRINK?
WHERE'S HALYNA?
HALYNA AND LUCIE HAVE LEFT. I'M ALONE, LIKE YOU.
BUT HERE WE ARE TOGETHER AGAIN, MY FRIEND! SPEND THE NIGHT HERE WITH ME.
YES, NESTOR. I THINK I WILL.

MARCH 1917
FELLOW PRISONERS! THE OLD ORDER HAS FALLEN!
LIBERTY FOR EVERYONE!
THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT HAS CANCELED THE DEATH PENALTY AND IS EMPTYING THE PRISONS. WE'RE ABOUT TO BE *FREED.*
WE'LL FINALLY LIVE!
NO, NESTOR. KEEP THIS AND TAKE ANY OTHERS YOU WANT.
I'VE READ AND REREAD THEM. IT'S ALL IN HERE.
AND I'VE GOT ALL I NEED TO PUT IT INTO PRACTICE.
YOU CAN GO. I'LL TAKE OFF MAKHNO'S SHACKLES.
I MANAGED TO UNLOCK THESE A LONG TIME AGO.
I TOOK THEM OFF AT NIGHT.

TVERSKAYA ST. IN MOSCOW
HEAVE HO! BRING DOWN THE TYRANT!
FROM THE SOIL WE WERE BORN! OPPRESSED WORKERS: NOT FOR LONG! WE ARE READY! WE ARE STRONG!
I'M STAYING IN MOSCOW. I WANT TO WORK ALONGSIDE COMRADE LENIN. THE BOURGEOISIE CAUSED THIS REVOLUTION. THE HOUR OF THE PROLETARIAT IS AT HAND!
ALL LAND TO THE PEASANTS!
NESTOR! PIOTR! COME!
HEAVE HO! ROMANOV IS ALMOST DOWN! HEAVE HO!
OPENING THE PRISONS AND THE TSAR'S ABDICATION ARE A GOOD START. BUT WE NEED TO GO FURTHER: MAKE PEACE AND LET THE IMPERIALIST POWERS FIGHT AMONG THEMSELVES.
BRAVO!
I WANT TO STAY IN MOSCOW, TOO. THE GREATEST ANARCHIST THINKERS ARE HERE. SO NESTOR, WHAT'RE YOU GOING TO DO?
GO TO UKRAINE TO SPREAD THE REVOLUTION THERE.

"AND FIND MY FRIENDS AND FAMILY WHO I HAVEN'T SEEN IN EIGHT YEARS."
GOULIAI - POLIE ?
TSHEVCHENKA
YOU CAN'T DO THIS TO US! YOU HAVE NO RIGHT!
ON THE CONTRARY, KUZMENKO, MY WORD IS LAW; I AM THE LAW. YOU CAN'T PAY YOUR RENT. AS A RESULT, I'M EVICTING YOU FROM YOUR FARM. YOU AND YOUR FAMILY. CLEAR OUT, PLEASE. A NEW TENANT WILL BE HERE SOON.
AND YOU CALL THAT JUST? THAT'S JUST THE LAW OF THE STRONGEST, THE CRUELEST!
THE GREEDIEST --OOF...
THE LAW OF THE STRONGEST RENDERED BY THE COWARDS.
IF YOU DARE RAISE A HAND TO ME, I...
WHICH KULAK ARE YOU DOING THIS DIRTY WORK FOR?
I'M NOT A STRANGER, KUZMENKO. I'M NESTOR IVANOVYCH MAKHNO, AND I'VE COME HOME.
OUR LANDLORD IS DANIEL VYNNYCHENKO. HE'S HEARTLESS! AND SINCE THE WIDOW YULIA DIED AT THE START OF THE YEAR, HE SHOWS NO RESTRAINT. THANK YOU, STRANGER!
I'M HALYNA. THANK YOU!


I'M NESTOR, YANA MAKHNO'S OLDEST. ARE YOU DMITRI ZABOUZHKO? I HEARD YOU TOOK IN MY MOTHER AND MY BROTHER.
NESTOR! IT'S *YOU!*
VITALY, MY BROTHER. I'M SO HAPPY TO SEE YOU.
AFTER YOU WERE SENTENCED, WE WERE PUNISHED, THROWN OUT OF OUR HOME. THE ZABOUZHKOS WELCOMED US AS IF WE WERE THEIR OWN FAMILY.
NESTOR, IS IT YOU? IS IT REALLY YOU?
IT'S A MIRACLE.
SO YANA'S SON DIDN'T DIE IN THE TSAR'S BIG PRISON?
YOU DON'T LOOK WELL, MOTHER.
I'M AN OLD WOMAN WHO STILL HAS TO WORK HARD TO SURVIVE. THAT'S ALL.
I PROMISE YOU THAT'S GOING TO CHANGE. *EVERYTHING'S* GOING TO CHANGE. BUT FIRST, YOU'LL GO BACK HOME IMMEDIATELY.
KATRIN VYNNYCHENKO? SHE DISAPPEARED SHORTLY AFTER YOU WERE DEPORTED.
NOBODY KNOWS WHAT BECAME OF HER.


HERE WE ARE. YOU'RE HOME, MAMA. NO ONE'D BETTER THINK OF CHASING YOU AWAY AGAIN!
OPEN THE DOOR TO OUR HOUSE, VITALY. KICK IT IN!
HERE WE GO!
MY SON... EVERYTHING IS POSSIBLE WITH YOU. TODAY YOU'RE CARRYING YOUR MOTHER; SOON, YOU'LL MOVE MOUNTAINS.
MAKHNO! MAKHNO!
HALYNA! ARE YOU HURT?
THIS IS MY FATHER'S BLOOD. THE BAILIFF'S MEN DIDN'T RETURN, BUT THE POLICE DID. THEY *KILLED* MY FATHER-- SHOT HIM IN THE BACK! THEY'RE LOOKING FOR YOU, MAKHNO. THEY'RE COMING TO ARREST YOU.
NO! NO WAY!

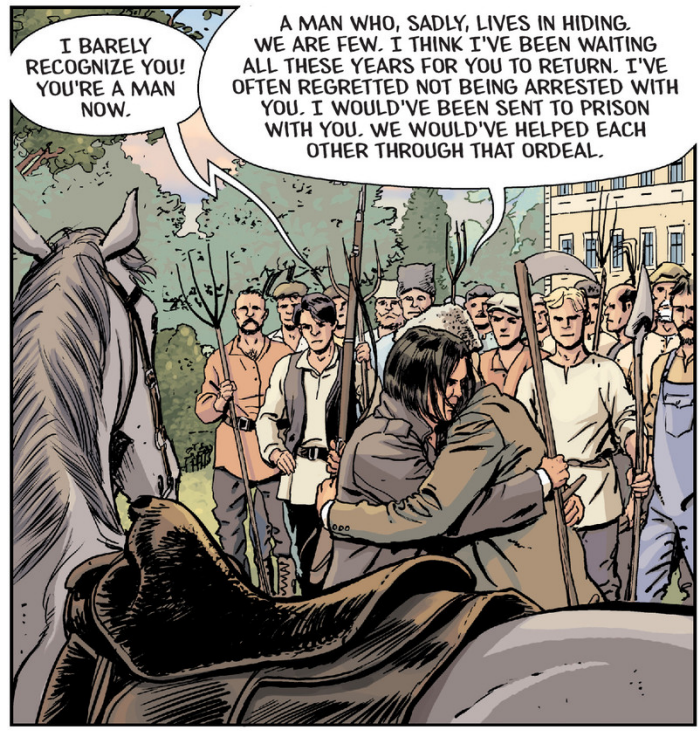
MOVE ASIDE! WE'VE COME FOR THE INSURGENT NAMED MAKHNO.
I'M MAKHNO. LAY DOWN YOUR ARMS OR DIE WHERE YOU STAND.
WHICH ONE MURDERED YOUR FATHER?
I'M NOT A SNITCH. LET HIM COME FORWARD.
NOBODY?... IN THAT CASE, YOU'LL ALL BE EXECUTED.
IT WAS HIM! HE KILLED KUZMENKO!
A MURDERER AND A MISERABLE COWARD... YOU'LL BOTH BE HANGED. THE REST OF YOU CAN GO FREE OR JOIN US.
GET ME TWO ROPES.
SINCE JUSTICE HAS ALWAYS BEEN RENDERED FOR THE POWERFUL, WE'LL RENDER OUR OWN JUSTICE, STARTING TODAY.

BUT WE KNOW WHO'S REALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR KUZMENKO'S MURDER: *DANIEL VYNNYCHENKO!*
WE ARE READY! WE ARE STRONG!
WE ARE READY! WE ARE STRONG!

WAIT, FRIEND!

YOU'RE GOING TO NEED OUR HELP.

KOLIA ZIMORSKY!


I BARELY RECOGNIZE YOU! YOU'RE A MAN NOW.
A MAN WHO, SADLY, LIVES IN HIDING. WE ARE FEW. I THINK I'VE BEEN WAITING ALL THESE YEARS FOR YOU TO RETURN. I'VE OFTEN REGRETTED NOT BEING ARRESTED WITH YOU. I WOULD'VE BEEN SENT TO PRISON WITH YOU. WE WOULD'VE HELPED EACH OTHER THROUGH THAT ORDEAL.

NEVER REGRET HAVING AVOIDED PRISON. I'M PROUD YOU KEPT FIGHTING. I'LL BRING YOU JOY...AND NUMBERS!

NO MORE HIDING! TAKE OFF YOUR MASKS! WE ACT IN THE OPEN FROM NOW ON!

SOMETIMES, YOU'RE SO SLOW AND CLUMSY. HURRY UP!
THE LAND OF THE PEASANTS! THE DIGNITY OF MAN!
WHAT...?
LEV! HAND OUT THESE GUNS TO TRUSTED WORKERS. WE MUST DEFEND OURSELVES! GET MY HORSE FROM THE STABLE!
THIS ESTATE IS SUBJECT TO SOCIAL EXPROPRIATION AND WILL BE GIVEN OVER TO ALL WHO WORK THE LAND.
Y...YOU! MAKHNO, IT'S YOU! YOU'VE RISEN BACK UP, STRAIGHT FROM HELL!
YOU WON'T ROB ME! YOU'LL TAKE NOTHING FROM ME! FIRE AT THEM! FIRE!

LEV! YOU TRAITOR! YOU OLD *BASTARD!*
YOU'LL PAY FOR THIS! *ALL OF YOU!*
HOW DOES IT FEEL TO KNOW THAT THESE MEN WILL CELEBRATE THEIR NEW FREEDOM BY DRINKING THE BEST WINE IN YOUR CELLAR?
DRINK! GET DRUNK! ENJOY YOURSELVES. I'LL HAVE THE LAST LAUGH WHEN YOU ALL SWING AT THE END OF A ROPE. AND THIS TIME YOU WON'T BE MIRACULOUSLY SAVED, MAKHNO.
I HAVE SOMETHING TO ASK YOU, AND YOU'D BE WISE TO ANSWER HONESTLY.
WHERE'S KATRIN?
NO IDEA, I SWEAR. SHE DISAPPEARED THE DAY AFTER YOU ESCAPED THE GALLOWS.
WHAT I DO KNOW IS THAT LITTLE BITCH IS WHY YOU WERE ARRESTED, IDIOT THAT YOU ARE.
BRING ME A BOTTLE OF VODKA!
YOU ARE GOING TO CELEBRATE YOUR OWN EXPROPRIATION!

GET UP!
WE'RE GOING TO DRIVE YOU TO THE EDGE OF THE ESTATE. IF YOU RETURN TO THIS LAND, YOU'LL BE EXECUTED ON THE SPOT.
YOU...YOU... CAME BACK, M...MAKHNO. I...I, TOO, SHALL RETURN! I S...SWEAR TO YOU!
HEY, WAIT! I...I HAVE NOTHING! YOU DIDN'T EVEN LEAVE ME A K..KOPEK! LET ME TAKE SOMETHING. I'LL DIE OF...
WE LEARNED TO LIVE WITH NOTHING A LONG TIME AGO, VYNNYCHENKO. YOU'LL GET USED TO IT, TOO.
NESTOR...

KATRIN...
HALYNA?
I'M ANGRY, TOO... ABOUT THE DEATH OF MY FATHER. THANK YOU FOR WHAT YOU DID, FOR HIS MEMORY, FOR MY PAIN, AND FOR ALL THESE PEOPLE.
NESTOR...

KREMENCHUK, EAST OF HULIAIPOLE
WE MUST FREE ALL THE PRISONERS AND GET OUT OF HERE AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE! IF THESE DAMN GUARDS HADN'T RESISTED SO MUCH...
HURRY UP AND OPEN THAT JAIL!
THANK YOU, COMRADE! YOU'VE SAVED OUR LIVES!
I'M VASILY MARCHENKO. OUR GROUP EXPROPRIATED THE BANK OF KREMENCHUK. WE KILLED THREE OF ITS DIRECTORS AND WERE GOING TO BE HANGED. THANK YOU.
DON'T THANK ME. I'M NESTOR MAKHNO, AND I SPENT NINE YEARS IMPRISONED AND CHAINED UP. IF I COULD, I'D FREE ALL THE PRISONERS AND DESTROY EVERY PRISON.
I PROMISE YOU WE'LL MEET AGAIN, MAKHNO.

SOMEONE'S AT THE DOOR, NESTOR. GO OPEN IT.
VASILY MARCHENKO! YOU'RE A MAN OF YOUR WORD!
MY MEN AND I ARE ASSEMBLING UNDER YOUR BANNER, MAKHNO.
AND WE'VE BROUGHT YOU SOMETHING THAT WILL BE USEFUL FOR THE CAUSE.
250,000 RUBLES. IT'S THE LOOT STOLEN FROM THE BANK OF KREMENCHUK. WE MANAGED TO KEEP IT HIDDEN.
YOU'RE HEAVEN-SENT, COMRADE.
YOU'RE GIVING US ALL THAT?
YES. EVEN THOUGH I LOVE MONEY AS MUCH AS YOU HATE PRISON.

HULIAIPOLE, OCTOBER 1917
SILENCE!
TODAY, FREE RESIDENTS OF HULIAIPOLE, YOU'LL APPOINT YOUR LEADERS. THEY'LL BE ELECTED DEMOCRATICALLY. YOU'LL DECIDE.
YOU, NESTOR IVANOVYCH, YOU! WE ELECT YOU!

OKAY, YOU'VE ELECTED THREE LEADERS: KOLIA ZIMORSKY, VASILY MARCHENKO, AND ME. NOW ALL THAT'S LEFT IS TO APPOINT THE HEAD OF OUR CAVALRY.
WHAT GIVES YOU THE RIGHT TO WEAR THE UNIFORM OF UKRAINIAN COSSACKS?

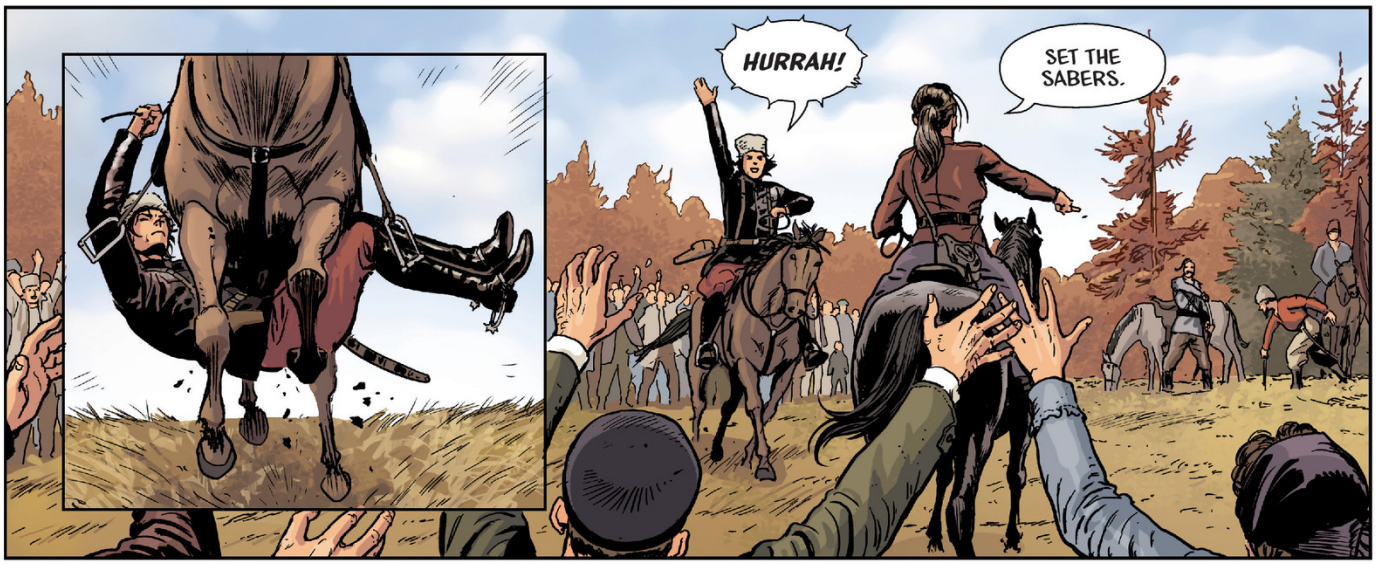
WE'RE FAMOUS IN ALEKSANDROVSK, WHERE WE DEFEATED COUNTERREVOLUTIONARY TROOPS. WE'RE *REAL* COSSACKS.
I'M A COSSACK, TOO. A ZAPROZHIAN COSSACK.

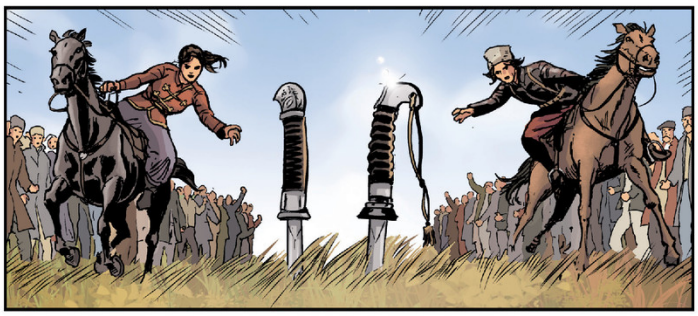
PROVE IT.

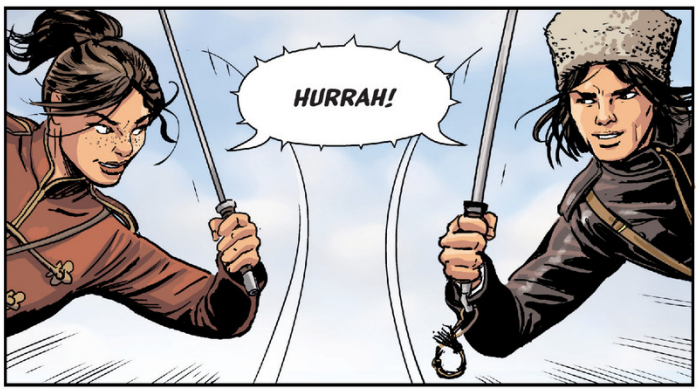
WATCH WHAT I DO. THEN TRY TO DO THE SAME.

HURRAH!

MY TURN. WATCH CLOSELY.







YOU'RE A *REAL* COSSACK, NESTOR MAKHNO. I'M MARUSYA KLIMENKOVA. DON'T YOU REMEMBER MY FACE? THINK BACK NINE YEARS AGO TO ALEKSANDROVSK...

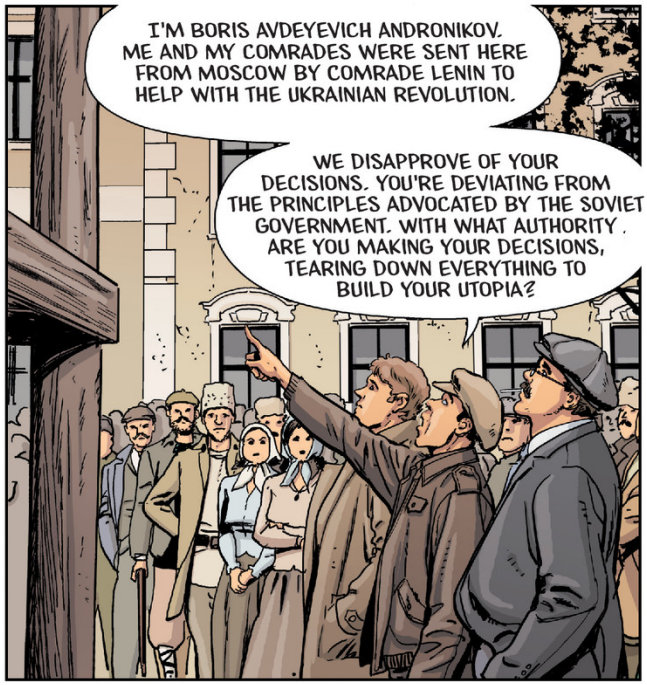
YES. THAT DAY I SWORE TO FIGHT, TOO. SEEING YOU SAVED CONVINCED ME YOU'D BE A LEADER SOME DAY. AS SOON AS I KNEW YOU'D RETURNED TO UKRAINE, I HURRIED TO SEE WHO YOU'D BECOME. I'M NOT DISAPPOINTED.

TEN DAYS LATER
SHOW YOUR PAPERS TO COMRADE HALYNA. DON'T DRAG YOUR FEET; YOU'RE ALREADY LATE.
MY COACHMAN WILL DEAL WITH THAT, BUT I PROTEST! YOU'VE TAKEN ME AWAY FROM MY ESTATE. YOU HAVE NO RIGHT TO MISTREAT HONEST PEOPLE.
PIPE DOWN AND GO YOURSELF. THAT'S AN ORDER.
GIVE ME THE TITLES TO THE PROPERTY: LAND, LIVESTOCK, AND EQUIPMENT.
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO WITH MY TITLES? AND WITH US?
WE SHOULD FEAR THE WORST FROM THESE BANDITS, AND ESPECIALLY FROM THEIR LEADER.
THAT DEVIL, MAKHNO!

THE FREE COMMUNE OF HULIAIPOLE HAS DECIDED TO REDISTRIBUTE ALL THE LAND IN THE COUNTY! WE'LL DO IT ACCORDING TO THE ZAPROZHIAN PHILOSOPHY OF UKRAINE: EACH PERSON'S NEEDS.
LAND OWNERSHIP IS CONVERTED INTO SOCIAL OWNERSHIP. NO ONE WILL OWN MORE LAND THAN HE CAN CULTIVATE HIMSELF WITHOUT HIRING WORKERS. EVERY FAMILY WILL HAVE ONE OR TWO COWS, AND IT WILL BE THE SAME WITH HORSES.

THE WORST. I *TOLD* YOU.

WAIT!


I'M BORIS AVDEYEVICH ANDRONIKOV. ME AND MY COMRADES WERE SENT HERE FROM MOSCOW BY COMRADE LENIN TO HELP WITH THE UKRAINIAN REVOLUTION.
WE DISAPPROVE OF YOUR DECISIONS. YOU'RE DEVIATING FROM THE PRINCIPLES ADVOCATED BY THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT. WITH WHAT AUTHORITY . ARE YOU MAKING YOUR DECISIONS, TEARING DOWN EVERYTHING TO BUILD YOUR UTOPIA?

MY DECISIONS? ONLY THE PEOPLE MAKE THE DECISIONS HERE. ARE THE BOLSHEVIKS AGAINST THE PEOPLE?

WE DON'T NEED YOUR HELP!
GO BACK TO RUSSIA!

WE DON'T APPROVE OF ANYTHING YOU'VE DECIDED, MAKHNO! YOUR DISPOSSESSIONS ARE REPUGNANT!

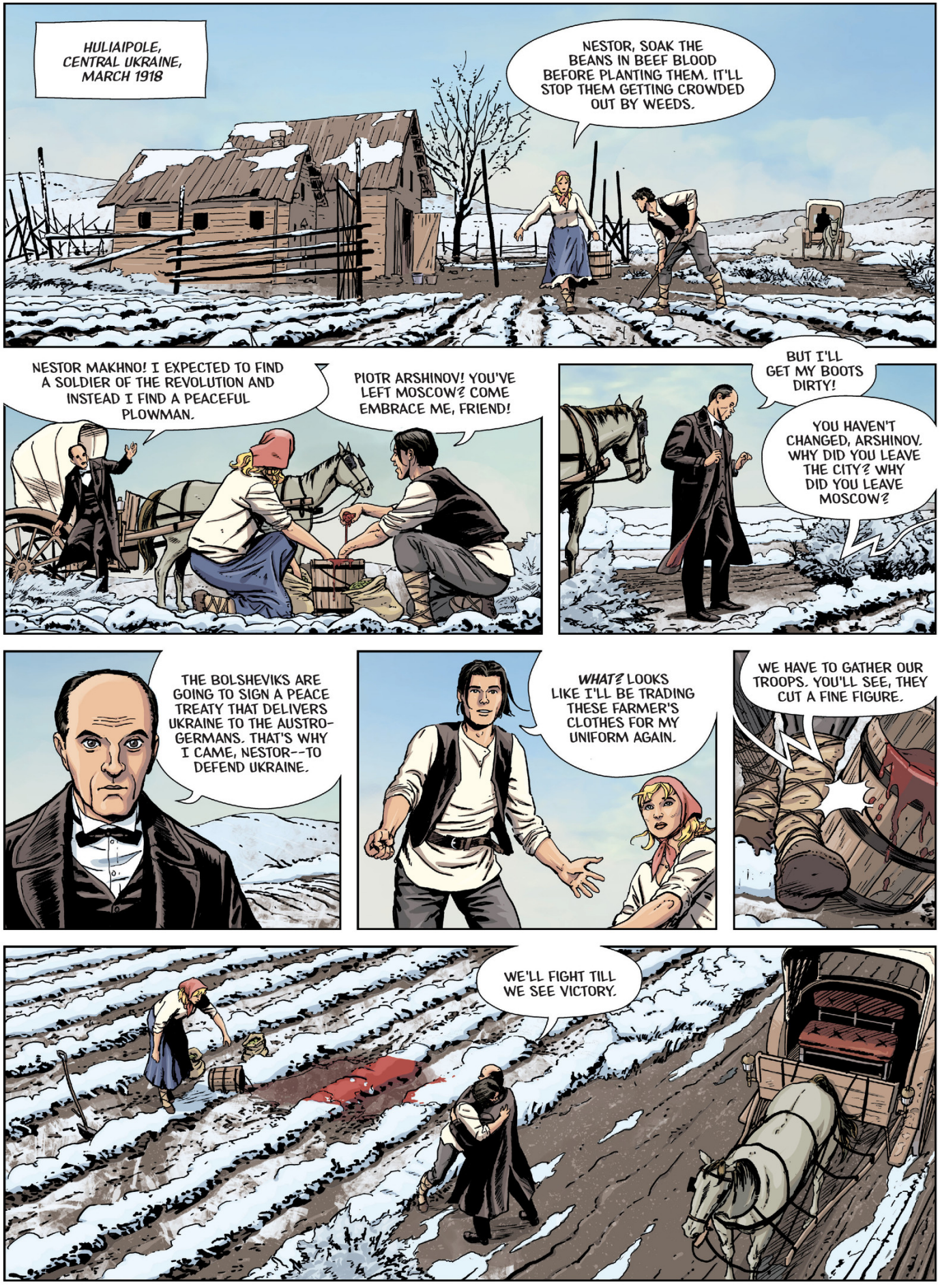
LET US THROUGH! WE'RE TAKING *BACK* OUR TITLES!

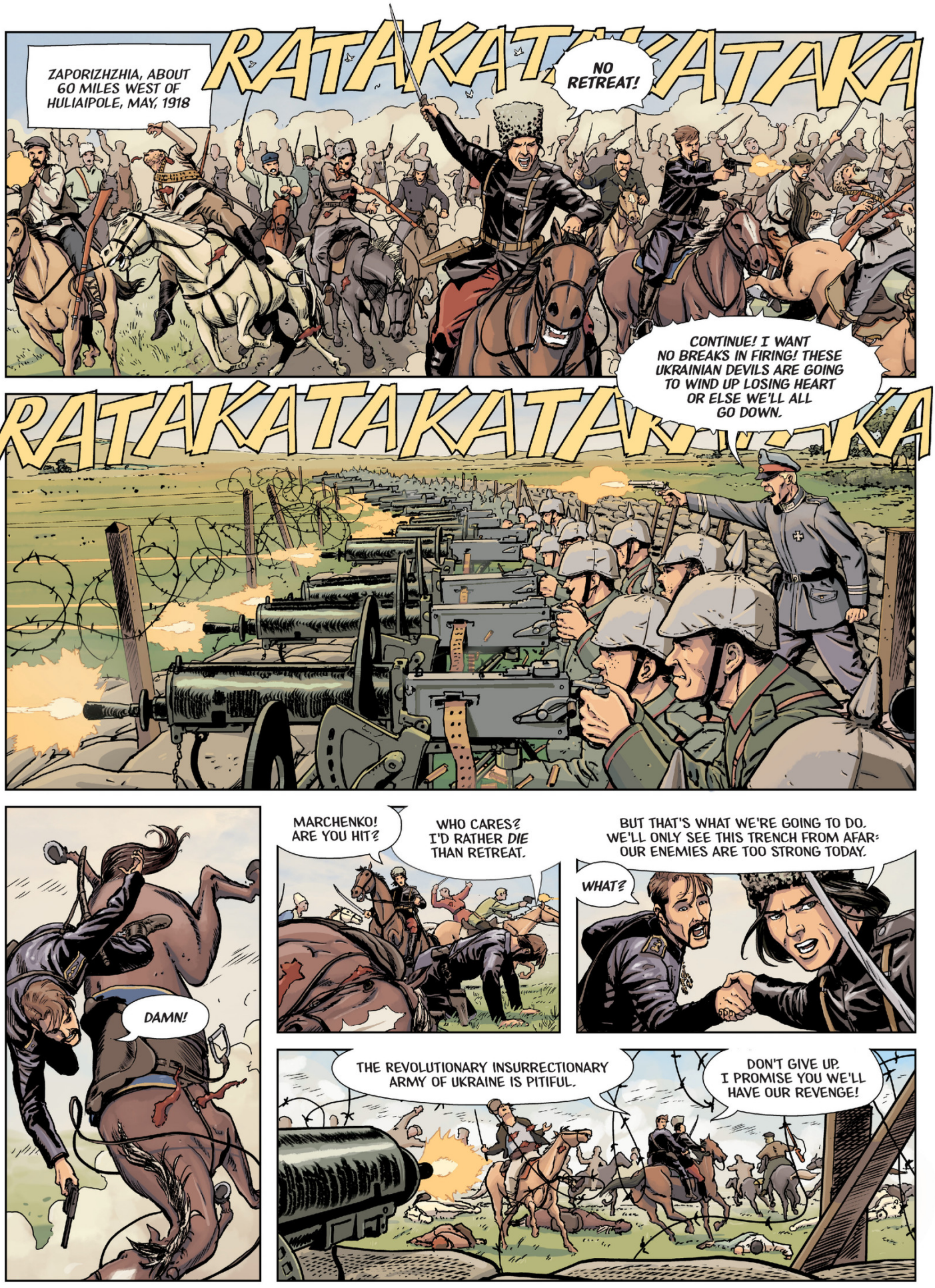
I'LL GIVE YOU BACK THOSE TITLES YOU HOLD SO DEARLY.
HERE!
WHAT'RE YOU DOING? YOU'RE A MADMAN!
YOUR TITLES HAVE CHANGED FORM AND OWNER. FROM NOW ON, THEY BELONG TO THE LAND AND THOSE WHO WORK IT.
YOU DID WELL, MAKHNO. WE STAND WITH YOU.
YES, WE STAND WITH YOU!
COME WITH ME, HALYNA.
NESTOR!

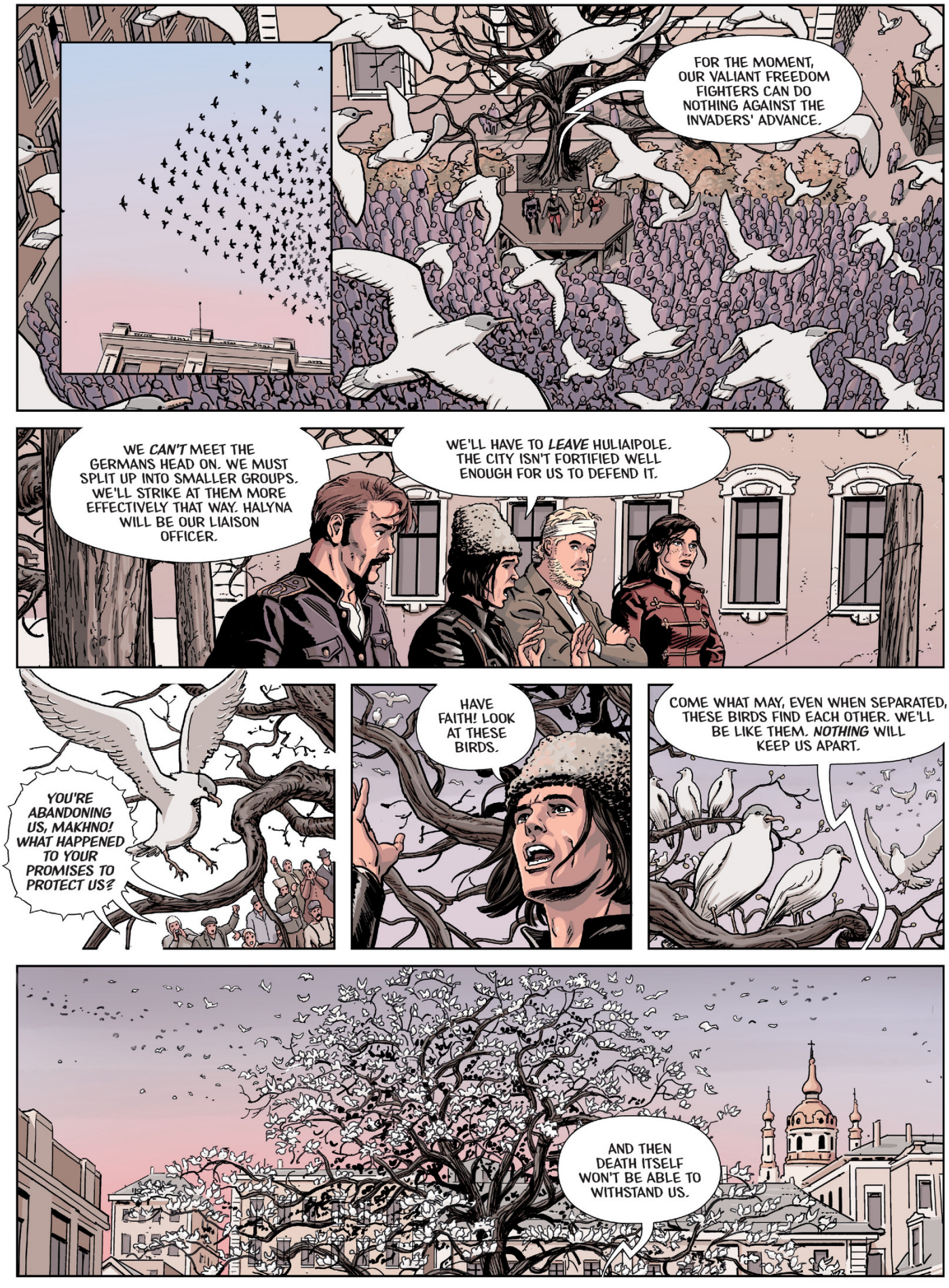
WHAT ARE *YOU* DOING HERE?
MY JOB AS A PLOWMAN. LIKE ALL MY MEN, TWO DAYS A WEEK I'M A SIMPLE PEASANT FROM THE FREE COMMUNE OF HULIAIPOLE.
MAKHNO! COME TO MY PLOT INSTEAD.
NO, MINE.
YOU LIVE ALONE NOW. WHY DO YOU HAVE SUCH A LARGE PLOT?
HELP ME SOW THE WINTER WHEAT SEEDS.
I'D LIKE THIS PLOT TO BE FOR THE TWO OF US. WOULD YOU LIKE THAT TOO?
WHEN THIS WHEAT GROWS, IT WILL BE ON FREE LAND.

VINCENNES, 1934
ALL THOSE BATTLES, ALL THOSE SACRIFICES, ONLY TO FIND YOU HERE ALONE AND UTTERLY DESTITUTE, MAKHNO...
MY CONDITION DOESN'T MATTER.
I CAN STILL FIGHT, BUT ON THE BATTLEFIELD OF IDEAS.
I'M WRITING MY MEMOIRS. THEY'LL BE AN UNFORGIVING INDICTMENT OF THOSE WHO BETRAYED THE REVOLUTIONARY IDEAL MORE THAN ANYONE ELSE...
...THE BOLSHEVIKS!

"I CAN'T GO THROUGH WITH IT.
"NOT NOW.
"NOT LIKE THIS."


HULIAIPOLE, CENTRAL UKRAINE, MARCH 1918
NESTOR, SOAK THE BEANS IN BEEF BLOOD BEFORE PLANTING THEM. IT'LL STOP THEM GETTING CROWDED OUT BY WEEDS.
NESTOR MAKHNO! I EXPECTED TO FIND A SOLDIER OF THE REVOLUTION AND INSTEAD I FIND A PEACEFUL PLOWMAN.
PIOTR ARSHINOV! YOU'VE LEFT MOSCOW? COME EMBRACE ME, FRIEND!
BUT I'LL GET MY BOOTS DIRTY!
YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED, ARSHINOV. WHY DID YOU LEAVE THE CITY? WHY DID YOU LEAVE MOSCOW?
THE BOLSHEVIKS ARE GOING TO SIGN A PEACE TREATY THAT DELIVERS UKRAINE TO THE AUSTRO-GERMANS. THAT'S WHY I CAME, NESTOR--TO DEFEND UKRAINE.
WHAT? LOOKS LIKE I'LL BE TRADING THESE FARMER'S CLOTHES FOR MY UNIFORM AGAIN.
WE HAVE TO GATHER OUR TROOPS. YOU'LL SEE, THEY CUT A FINE FIGURE.
WE'LL FIGHT TILL WE SEE VICTORY.


ZAPORIZHZHIA, ABOUT 60 MILES WEST OF HULIAIPOLE, MAY, 1918
RATAKATAKATAKA
NO RETREAT!
CONTINUE! I WANT NO BREAKS IN FIRING! THESE UKRAINIAN DEVILS ARE GOING TO WIND UP LOSING HEART OR ELSE WE'LL ALL GO DOWN.
RATAKATAKATAKATAKA
DAMN!
MARCHENKO! ARE YOU HIT?
WHO CARES? I'D RATHER DIE THAN RETREAT.
BUT THAT'S WHAT WE'RE GOING TO DO. WE'LL ONLY SEE THIS TRENCH FROM AFAR: OUR ENEMIES ARE TOO STRONG TODAY.
WHAT?
THE REVOLUTIONARY INSURRECTIONARY ARMY OF UKRAINE IS PITIFUL.
DON'T GIVE UP. I PROMISE YOU WE'LL HAVE OUR REVENGE!


FOR THE MOMENT, OUR VALIANT FREEDOM FIGHTERS CAN DO NOTHING AGAINST THE INVADERS' ADVANCE.
WE *CAN'T* MEET THE GERMANS HEAD ON. WE MUST SPLIT UP INTO SMALLER GROUPS. WE'LL STRIKE AT THEM MORE EFFECTIVELY THAT WAY. HALYNA WILL BE OUR LIAISON OFFICER.
WE'LL HAVE TO *LEAVE* HULIAIPOLE. THE CITY ISN'T FORTIFIED WELL ENOUGH FOR US TO DEFEND IT.
YOU'RE ABANDONING US, MAKHNO! WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR PROMISES TO PROTECT US?
HAVE FAITH! LOOK AT THESE BIRDS.
COME WHAT MAY, EVEN WHEN SEPARATED, THESE BIRDS FIND EACH OTHER. WE'LL BE LIKE THEM. *NOTHING* WILL KEEP US APART.
AND THEN DEATH ITSELF WON'T BE ABLE TO WITHSTAND US.

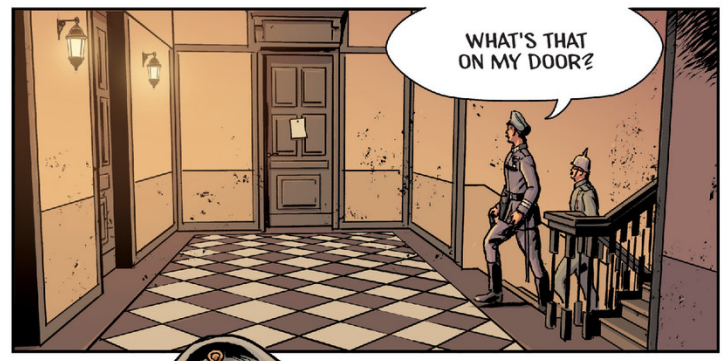
YOU AREN'T LIKELY TO SEE YOUR BANDIT AGAIN, YOUR MAKHNO. THE FREE COMMUNES ARE WELL AND TRULY FINISHED.
A MAN WHOSE MOST BASIC, LEGITIMATE RIGHTS WERE TRAMPLED UPON HAS ASSERTED THEM WITH THE COUNTRY'S NEW AUTHORITIES. TODAY HIS POSITION AND HONOR ARE RESTORED. YOU HAVE A MASTER ONCE AGAIN.
YOUR MASTER OF OLD.
ALL THE WORKERS ARE HERE. WHO SHOULD BE PUNISHED?
THEY'RE ALL GUILTY. BUT I CAN'T PUNISH ALL OF THEM. I NEED THEM. BRING THE OLD MAN.
MR. DANIEL, NO! I WAS YOUR FAITHFUL STEWARD. IN YOUR ABSENCE, I DID EVERYTHING I COULD TO PROTECT THIS ESTATE!
YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE PUT THAT GUN DOWN THE DAY MAKHNO CAME TO STEAL EVERYTHING FROM ME.
NO! DON'T DO IT!
MR. DANIEL! SPARE LEV! WE'LL DO EVERYTHING YOU WANT. YOU WON'T HAVE ANY COMPLAINTS ABOUT US!
AIM!
FIRE!
I REALLY HOPE I HAVE NO COMPLAINTS ABOUT YOU. OTHERWISE, THE GERMAN SOLDIERS WILL BE BACK.

YOUR SON'S NO LONGER IN CHARGE, YANA MAKHNO. FROM NOW ON, YOU'LL LIVE OUTDOORS, AND NOBODY MAY HOUSE YOU UNDER PENALTY OF BEING HANGED ALONGSIDE YOU.
AAAH!
IF YOU CIRCLE THE TOWN ON YOUR HANDS AND KNEES, I'LL AGREE TO LET YOU LIVE IN A DOGHOUSE.
I'LL NEVER HUMILIATE MYSELF FOR YOU. MY SON CAME BACK ONCE. HE'LL COME BACK AGAIN AND HE'LL PUNISH YOU.
OFFICER, SIR, NO! SPARE THIS WOMAN. SHE IS NO THREAT TO ANYONE.
YOU'RE DEFENDING A MAKHNOVIST PIECE OF TRASH. YOU'RE MAKHNOVISTS, TOO.
NO! I ASSURE YOU THAT...
NO!
YOU NEED TO GET IT INTO YOUR HEADS THAT THE RULES HAVE CHANGED.
YOU'VE KILLED WHAT'S GOOD. WHAT'S GOOD WILL KILL YOU.

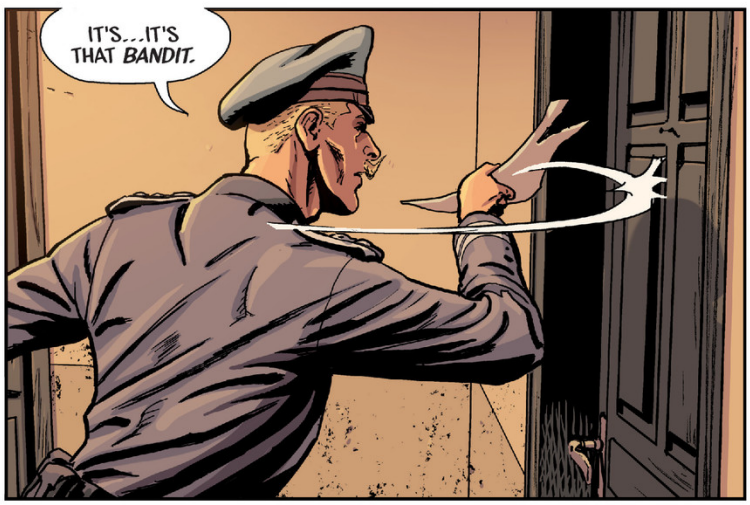
HULIAIPOLE BARRACKS
AT EASE, SOLDIER. CLOSE THE DOOR.
CAPTAIN, SIR. LIEUTENANT, SIR.

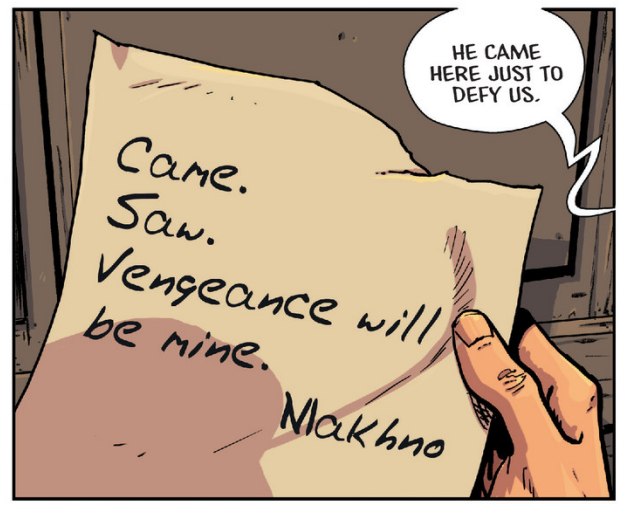
RICHTER, WE NEED TO DOUBLE THE PRICE ON MAKHNO'S HEAD. OFFER 10,000 RUBLES.
YES, SIR, CAPTAIN.

YOU'LL SEE. THAT'LL PUSH ONE OF THESE SCUMBAGS TO BETRAY HIM. WE'LL SOON PUT HIM WHERE HE CAN'T DO ANY HARM.


WHAT'S THAT ON MY DOOR?

WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THIS?!


IT'S...IT'S THAT BANDIT.


HE CAME HERE JUST TO DEFY US.
Came.
Saw.
Vengeance will be mine.
Makhno

DONETSK REGION, UKRAINE, AUGUST 1918
RATAKATAKATATATA
DON'T HESITATE! IF THEY GET US WITHIN THE REACH OF THEIR GRENADES, NONE OF US WILL GET OUT ALIVE.
MORE AMMO! QUICK! WHY AREN'T THE NEXT ROUNDS READY?
TIC TIC TIC TIC
ONLY ONE MACHINE GUN STILL HAS AMMUNITION. LET'S TAKE THE FIGHT TO THEM. WE'D RATHER DIE FIGHTING THAN SURROUNDED BY THE GERMANS.
RATAKATAKA
GRENADES... LAUNCH!
HELP ME LIFT THE MACHINE GUN. WE'LL SORTIE, BUT NOT THE WAY YOU THINK.

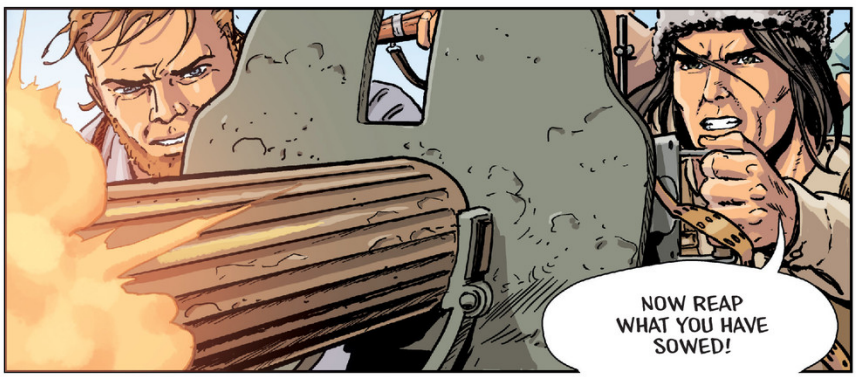
DMITRI! TAKE THE REINS! I'LL HANDLE THE MACHINE GUN. EVERYONE CLIMB ON, UNLESS YOU WANT TO DIE HERE.

ATTACK!

GO, DMITRI! LASH THE HORSES! DON'T STOP FOR ANYTHING!

RATAKATAKATAK!

TURN RIGHT!
HURRAH!


NOW REAP WHAT YOU HAVE SOWED!

THANK YOU FOR WELCOMING ME TO YOUR CAMP, MARCHENKO. OURS WAS DESTROYED BY THE GERMANS. THEY HUNTED US DOWN IN THE DONETSK HILLS, AND I JUST MADE IT OUT OF THERE WITH ONLY A HANDFUL OF MEN.
THAT'S THE VEHICLE THAT SAVED MY LIFE.
TELL ME ABOUT IT. COME INTO MY TENT.
WE'LL CELEBRATE OUR REUNION AND ANOTHER LUCKY ESCAPE FOR YOU!
YOU DON'T PREFER TO SHARE A TENT WITH YOUR MEN?
VASILY, DO YOU NEED THIS LUXURY?
THESE ARE THE SPOILS OF WAR, NESTOR. OBJECTS STOLEN FROM THE BOURGEOISIE, FROM GERMAN OFFICERS.
YOU KNOW WHAT I *NEED*? VICTORY! THAT'S WHAT I'D RATHER SHARE WITH MY MEN! TOGETHER, WE'VE FREED POLOHY WITH ALMOST *NO* LOSSES.
BRAVO. DO YOU HAVE ANY NEWS FROM MARUSYA?
HALYNA SAYS SHE FREED SYNELNY. SHE'S PHENOMENAL. NOBODY SUSPECTS THAT LITTLE WOMAN WHO SLIPS BETWEEN THE LINES.
IT WASN'T *ALL* GOOD NEWS THOUGH. THE GERMANS WIPED OUT KOLIA'S TROOPS AT NIKOPOL.
I KNOW ZIMORSKY IS YOUR CHILDHOOD FRIEND. AND HE HAS MANY GOOD QUALITIES...BUT HE *ISN'T* A LEADER.

ALEKSANDROVSK, NEAR THE DNIEPER
GENERAL! THOUSANDS OF COSSACKS ARE GATHERED IN THE HILLS. THEY'RE MAKHNO'S MEN.
WHAT DOES HE EXPECT TO DO WITH THOSE BEGGARS? HE CAN'T INTEND TO ATTACK. IS HE HERE TO TAUNT US?
THERE AREN'T ENOUGH OF US, MAKHNO.
AS LONG AS WE WAGE A WAR OF SKIRMISHES, THE BALANCE OF POWER WILL BARELY SHIFT AND THE GERMANS WILL STAY ON UKRAINIAN SOIL. ATTACKING THEM HERE, WHERE THEIR COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF IS STATIONED, WILL BE A MAJOR BLOW TO STRIKE.
WE MAY BE FEWER, BUT BOLDNESS IS STRONGER THAN NUMBERS. EACH OF US IS WORTH 100 OF THEM. WE ARE READY! WE ARE STRONG!
WE ARE READY! WE ARE STRONG!
GENERAL! THEY... THEY'RE ATTACKING!
WE'LL GIVE THEM A GOOD WELCOME, THOSE IMBECILES. THAT'S THE END OF THEIR MAKHNOSHCHINA.
Property of General Köhn

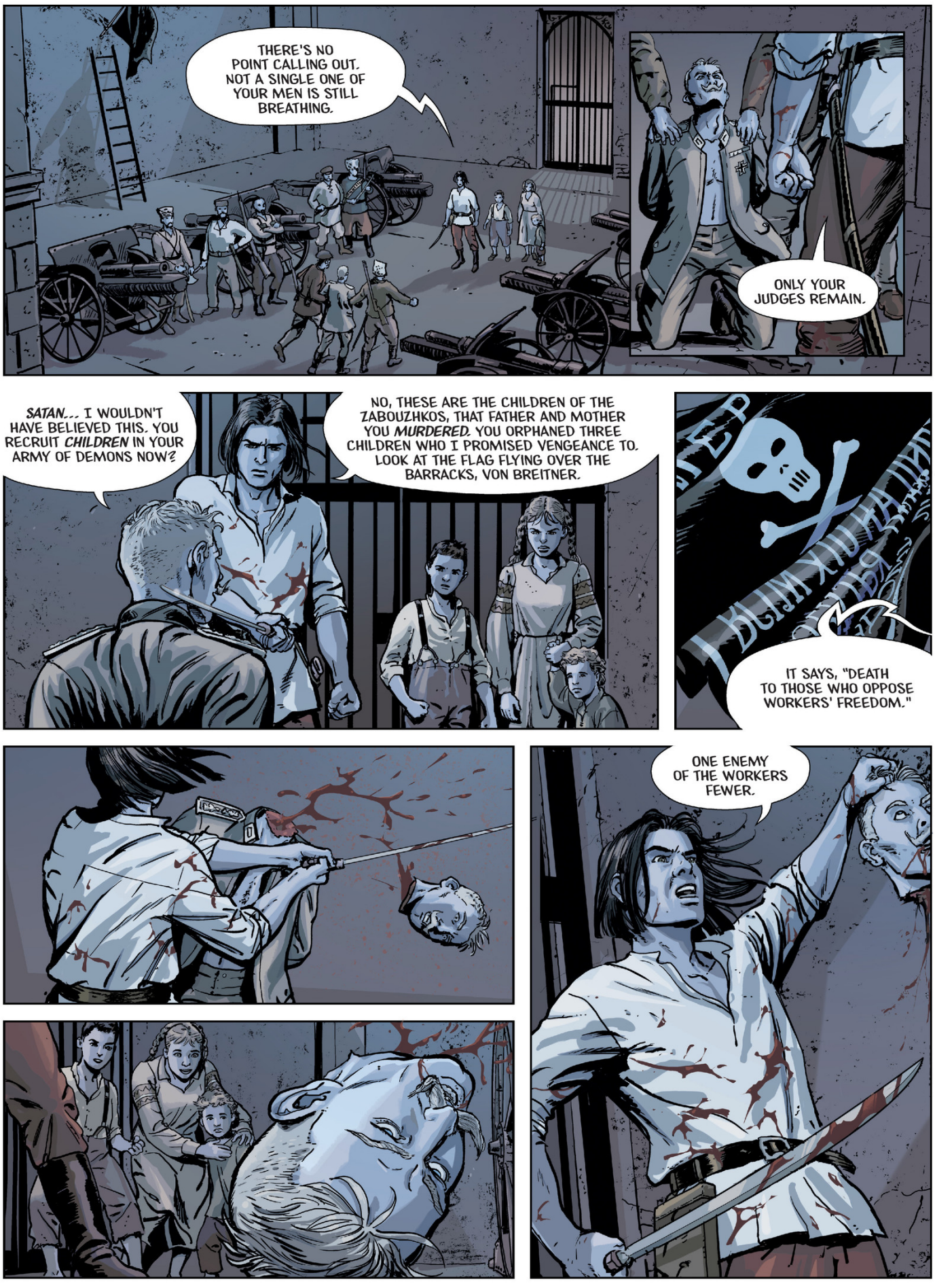
MAKHNO! WE CAN'T RETREAT ANYMORE. WE'VE MADE A *MISTAKE.*
NO, VASILY! WHAT I, TOO, NEED IS VICTORY!
ON MY COMMAND!
DON'T STOP! LET THOSE BEHIND US FINISH THEM OFF!
IT'S TOO FAR. THEY'LL LINE UP AGAINST US.
ON MY COMMAND...

LET'S MOVE AWAY FROM HERE. IT COULD BE DANGEROUS.
...FIRE!
THEY WANT TO FIND THEIR ENEMY'S WEAK SPOT. BUT THE GERMANS ARE WAITING FOR THEM EVERYWHERE. THEY'LL SURROUND AND SLAUGHTER THEM.
THIS WILL BE OVER SOON. THE MAKHNOVISTS ARE AS GOOD AS DEAD. THERE ARE MANY MORE GERMANS AND THEY'RE BETTER ARMED.
UNLESS...
...UNLESS WE JOIN HIM!
MAKHNO IS A PEASANT LIKE US. HE'S FIGHTING FOR ALL THE PEASANTS OF UKRAINE. HE'S FIGHTING FOR US.
HE AND HIS MEN MAKE THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE AND WE TURN OUR BACKS ON THEM?
LET'S FIGHT FOR THEM! I JUST HOPE IT'S NOT TOO LATE.

BLAM
MAKHNO!
HURRAH!
I'M HERE!
NOT MUCH OF A RESCUE, SADLY...
WE'RE PENNED IN!
TIME FOR THE KILL!

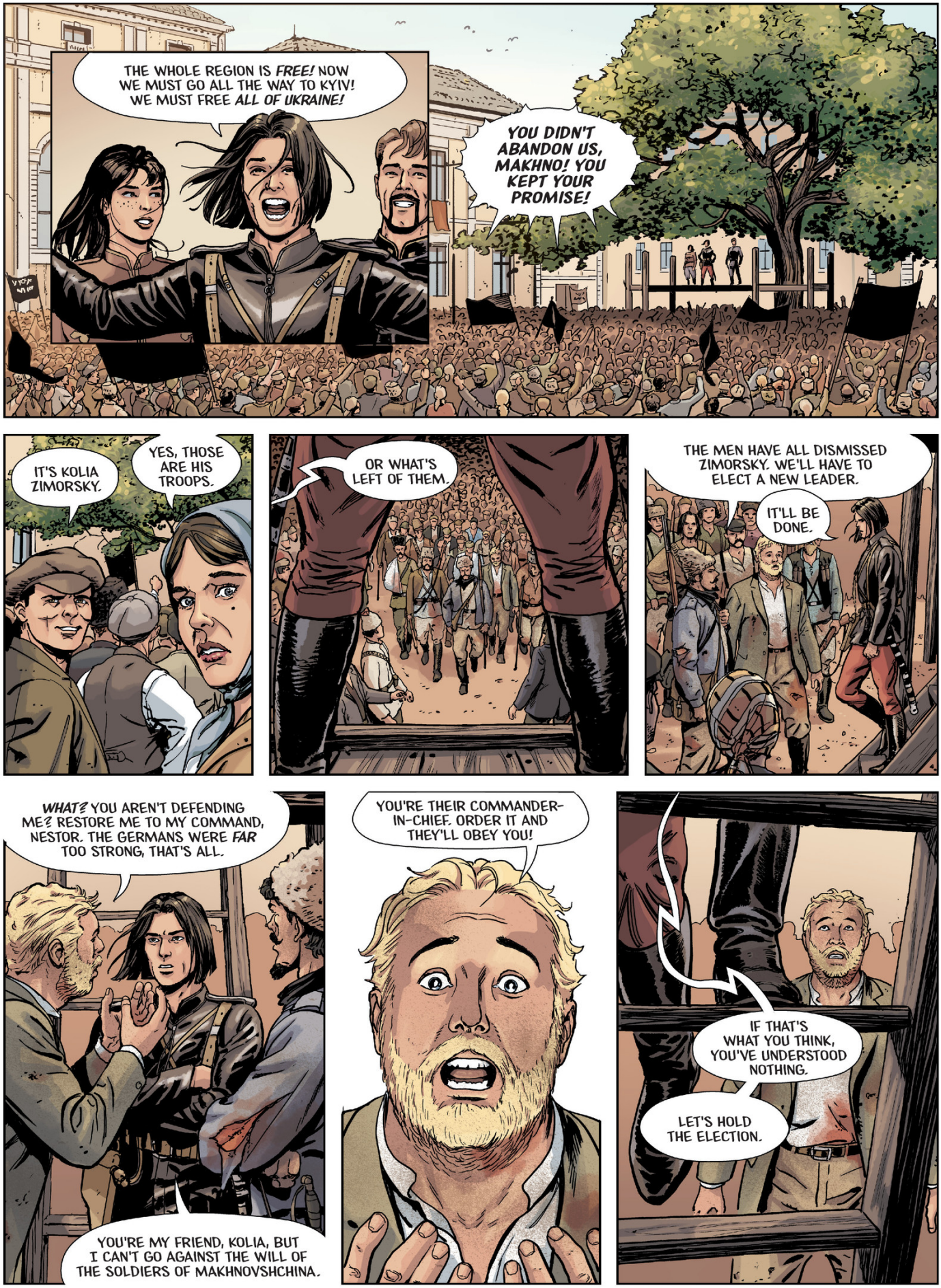
MAKHNO! WE'RE HERE!
WE WON'T LET THESE INVADERS KILL ONE OF OUR OWN!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING? MOVE BACK! GO HOME OR WE'LL SHOOT!
THE BIRDS... WE'RE GOING TO WIN.
WE HAVE THE RIGHT. WE HAVE THE NUMBERS! WE HAVE THE DEDICATION! ATTACK!
THEY'LL REAP DEATH OR SHAME!

HULIAIPOLE BARRACKS
AAAH!
HUH? WHAT'S GOING ON?
RICHTER! WHAT'S GOING ON? RICHTER! WHERE ARE YOU? ANYBODY?!
NOBODY'S ANSWERING...
WAKE UP, YOU LAZY LOT! I HEARD SCREAMS THAT...
NO! IT'S A NIGHTMARE. IT MUST BE... ARGH!
GET OUTSIDE!
HELP! THEY'RE ATTACKING YOUR CAPTAIN! QUICK!


THERE'S NO POINT CALLING OUT. NOT A SINGLE ONE OF YOUR MEN IS STILL BREATHING.
ONLY YOUR JUDGES REMAIN.
SATAN... I WOULDN'T HAVE BELIEVED THIS. YOU RECRUIT CHILDREN IN YOUR ARMY OF DEMONS NOW?
NO, THESE ARE THE CHILDREN OF THE ZABOUZHKOS, THAT FATHER AND MOTHER YOU MURDERED. YOU ORPHANED THREE CHILDREN WHO I PROMISED VENGEANCE TO. LOOK AT THE FLAG FLYING OVER THE BARRACKS, VON BREITNER.
IT SAYS, "DEATH TO THOSE WHO OPPOSE WORKERS' FREEDOM."
ONE ENEMY OF THE WORKERS FEWER.

YOU CAME BACK, ONCE AGAIN, AND HAD YOUR REVENGE. KILL ME LIKE THE MURDERER YOU ARE AND LET'S FINISH THIS.
RELEASE HIM AND GIVE HIM A SABER.
YOU WOULD'VE LIKED TO HAVE SEEN ME HANGED BY MY GUTS. SO GUT ME.
KILLING IS YOUR PROFESSION. I HAVE NO CHANCE OF BEATING YOU, AND YOU KNOW IT.
DOES *THIS* SEEM FAIRER TO YOU?
YOU'LL REGRET YOUR OWN CHIVALRY.
THE IDEAS YOU POURED INTO THIS LAND HAVE POISONED IT.
BASTARD!

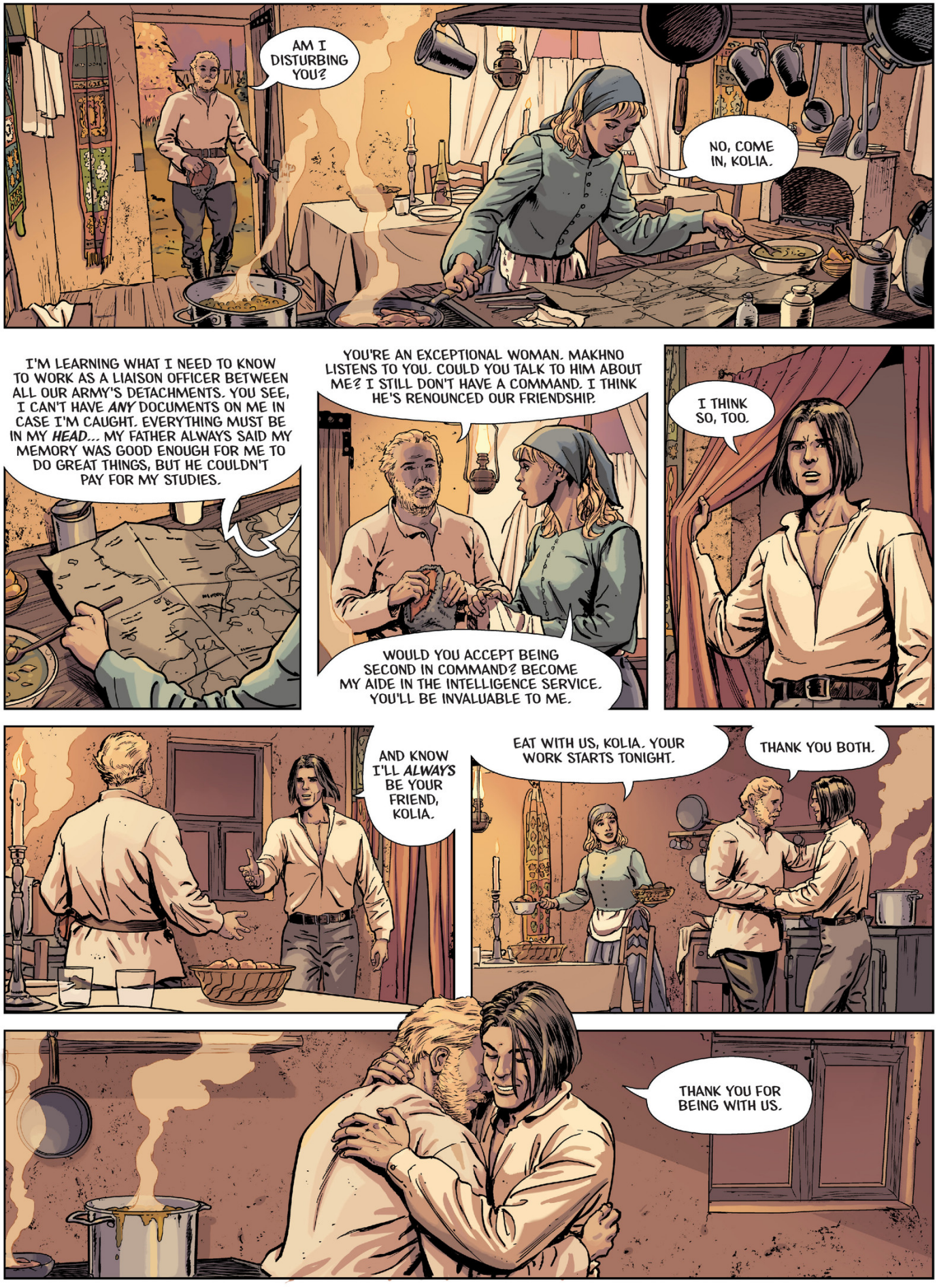
NO, THEY NOURISH IT, JUST LIKE MY BLOOD AS IT FLOWS.
IF I DIED, A THOUSAND CHERRY TREES WOULD RISE IN MY NATIVE LAND.
YOU'VE NEVER SPREAD ANYTHING BUT YOUR VENOM.
I WOULDN'T GIVE YOUR ENTRAILS TO THE WORST VULTURES TO EAT.
MAYBE TO THE CROWS....


THE WHOLE REGION IS *FREE!* NOW WE MUST GO ALL THE WAY TO KYIV! WE MUST FREE *ALL OF UKRAINE!*
YOU DIDN'T ABANDON US, MAKHNO! YOU KEPT YOUR PROMISE!
IT'S KOLIA ZIMORSKY.
YES, THOSE ARE HIS TROOPS.
OR WHAT'S LEFT OF THEM.
THE MEN HAVE ALL DISMISSED ZIMORSKY. WE'LL HAVE TO ELECT A NEW LEADER.
IT'LL BE DONE.
WHAT? YOU AREN'T DEFENDING ME? RESTORE ME TO MY COMMAND, NESTOR. THE GERMANS WERE *FAR* TOO STRONG, THAT'S ALL.
YOU'RE MY FRIEND, KOLIA, BUT I CAN'T GO AGAINST THE WILL OF THE SOLDIERS OF MAKHNOVSHCHINA.
YOU'RE THEIR COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF. ORDER IT AND THEY'LL OBEY YOU!
IF THAT'S WHAT YOU THINK, YOU'VE UNDERSTOOD NOTHING.
LET'S HOLD THE ELECTION.

THE SAME EVENING
HALYNA HASN'T RETURNED, NESTOR?
NOT YET, VASILY. SHE'S MAKING CONNECTIONS WITH OTHER UKRAINIAN PATRIOT MOVEMENTS TO SET UP A MEETING AND UNITE ALL THE INSURGENTS. THE UNIFIED ARMY WILL BE ABLE TO DEAL THE GERMAN TROOPS A FATAL BLOW. THEY'VE ALREADY RETREATED TO KATERYNOSLAV.
MORE BATTLES AHEAD--SOUNDS GOOD TO ME! I LIKE FIGHTING AND DANCING. COME ON, MAKHNO, SHOW ME YOU KNOW HOW TO DANCE LIKE A *REAL* COSSACK!
Property of General Makhno
WHAT'S THIS HORSE COLLAR?
SPOILS OF WAR!
LET'S STOP NOW.
HAHAHA! TIRED ALREADY?
IT'S YOU I'M WORRIED ABOUT. I DON'T WANT YOU TO BE COMPLETELY *EXHAUSTED.*
JOIN ME IN MY TENT.

DUBROVKA FOREST, THE SAME TIME
WHERE'S YOUR LEADER? WHERE'S SHCHUS?
THERE HE IS. I WOULDN'T RECOMMEND YOU SHOW HIM DISRESPECT.
THAT'S ALL MAKHNO SENT ME: A LITTLE WOMAN?
AND THIS CIRCUS COSTUME'S ALL YOU HAVE TO WEAR, ATAMAN SHCHUS?
РОСТИСЛАВ
HA HA HA!
ВСТЪ
YOU HAVE MY ATTENTION, HALYNA MAKHNO. TALK: I'M LISTENING.

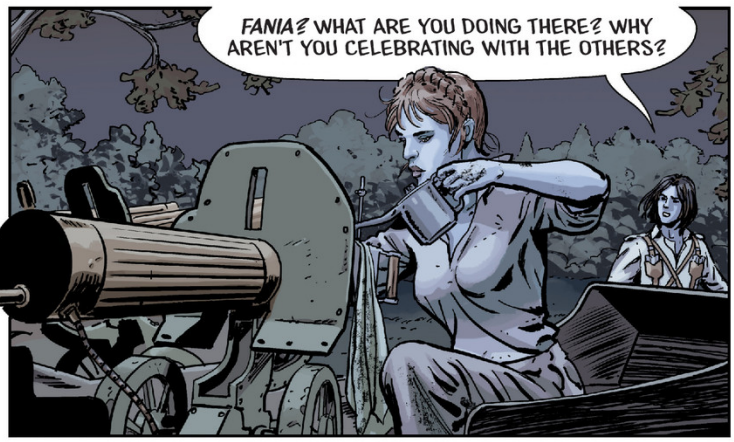
WE'RE GOING TO PRODUCE *DOZENS* OF THESE "TACHANKAS," MAYBE EVEN MORE. ONE TACHANKA SAVED MY LIFE; HUNDREDS WILL SAVE THE REVOLUTION.
WATCH OUT!
PICK UP THESE LEAFLETS!
I'M NOT YOUR SLAVE.
I'M NESTOR MAKHNO. THE IDEAS ON THESE LEAFLETS WERE WRITTEN WITH THE BLOOD OF OUR COMRADES. YOUR CONTEMPT INSULTS THEIR MEMORY. IF YOU DON'T PICK THEM UP, YOU'LL BE SHOT.
I'M FANIA ASKAROVNA. THE ONLY CONTEMPT I SEE HERE IS YOURS FOR HUMAN LIFE.
IF YOU DON'T MOVE ASIDE, *YOUR* BLOOD WILL STAIN THESE LEAFLETS, TOO.
HOW DO YOU KNOW HOW TO USE THAT?
TO SURVIVE IN WARTIME, A WOMAN HAS TO LEARN A LOT FASTER THAN A MAN HOW TO DEFEND HERSELF.
YOU MAY BE ABLE TO GET ELECTED HEAD OF THE TACHANKA DIVISION. YOU HAVE WHAT IT TAKES.
YOU ALREADY *HAVE* ME. I'LL BE YOUR WOMAN ONCE MORE IF WE MEET AGAIN.
ARE YOU GOING TO TAKE *HER* TO BED, TOO, MAKHNO? GO ON, I'LL LEAVE YOU TO YOUR TACHANKAS. I PREFER COMBAT, ANYWAY. I'M LEAVING TOMORROW, GOING BACK TO BATTLE.
I'M WITH HALYNA, BUT I NEED A WOMAN LIKE *YOU*, MARUSYA.


AM I DISTURBING YOU?
NO, COME IN, KOLIA.
I'M LEARNING WHAT I NEED TO KNOW TO WORK AS A LIAISON OFFICER BETWEEN ALL OUR ARMY'S DETACHMENTS. YOU SEE, I CAN'T HAVE *ANY* DOCUMENTS ON ME IN CASE I'M CAUGHT. EVERYTHING MUST BE IN MY *HEAD*... MY FATHER ALWAYS SAID MY MEMORY WAS GOOD ENOUGH FOR ME TO DO GREAT THINGS, BUT HE COULDN'T PAY FOR MY STUDIES.
YOU'RE AN EXCEPTIONAL WOMAN. MAKHNO LISTENS TO YOU. COULD YOU TALK TO HIM ABOUT ME? I STILL DON'T HAVE A COMMAND. I THINK HE'S RENOUNCED OUR FRIENDSHIP.
WOULD YOU ACCEPT BEING SECOND IN COMMAND? BECOME MY AIDE IN THE INTELLIGENCE SERVICE. YOU'LL BE INVALUABLE TO ME.
I THINK SO, TOO.
AND KNOW I'LL *ALWAYS* BE YOUR FRIEND, KOLIA.
EAT WITH US, KOLIA. YOUR WORK STARTS TONIGHT.
THANK YOU BOTH.
THANK YOU FOR BEING WITH US.

PARIS, 1934
KNIFE GRINDER! SHARPEN YOUR KNIVES AND SCISSORS!
WHY ISN'T MAKHNO DEAD?
HE'S NO LONGER DANGEROUS. HE'S SICK. YOU'VE GOT NOTHING TO FEAR FROM HIM.
HE'S WRITING HIS MEMOIRS. HIS IDEAS WILL ALWAYS BE DANGEROUS.
NO. ASK SOMEONE ELSE.
IT HAS TO BE YOU. IF A MAKHNOVIST KILLS HIM, NO ONE WILL SUSPECT STALIN.
SINCE YOU DON'T HAVE THE GUTS TO DO IT WITH YOUR OWN HANDS, POUR THE CONTENTS OF THIS VIAL INTO HIS GLASS. DON'T FORGET: WE JUST HAVE TO GIVE THE COMMAND, AND YOUR FAMILY'S EXTERMINATED.
A FEW DROPS WILL SUFFICE.
KNIFE GRINDER!
KNIVES...
SCISSORS AND SWORDS!

DO THE MAKHNOVISTS WANT ME TO ATTACK THIS FORTIFIED GERMAN CAMP BY *MYSELF?*
MAKHNO SHOULD'VE GOTTEN HERE WITH REINFORCEMENTS. *WHERE IS HE?* HIS WIFE'S A GEM, BUT HE SEEMS TO BE A LAZY BUM!
РОСТИСЛ
THERE THEY ARE! LOOKS LIKE IT'S THE DETACHMENT OF THOSE WEIRD MACHINES HALYNA TOLD ME ABOUT.
HELLO, MAKHNO! DO YOU CHOOSE THE WOMEN IN YOUR ARMY FOR THEIR SKILLS OR THEIR BEAUTY?
BOTH, SHCHUS.
THAT'S THE CASE WITH MARUSYA, WHO YOU CAN SEE ARRIVING WITH HER COSSACKS.
OH, TO DIE IN SUCH BEAUTIFUL COMPANY.
ATTACK! GIVE NO QUARTER!
BEFORE DYING, SHCHUS, THINK ABOUT *WINNING!*

THIS RIVER WILL CARRY AWAY GERMAN BODIES FOR SOME TIME TO COME.
THIS TIME WE'VE CHASED THE GERMANS FROM UKRAINE FOR GOOD! LONG LIVE THE FREE COMMUNES!
HURRAH!
YOU'LL BE ABLE TO GO BACK HOME TO HULIAIPOLE. IS THAT WHAT MAKES YOU SO HAPPY?
THAT, AND SEEING YOU AGAIN.
COME TO MY TENT, COSSACK?
OKAY, SHCHUS.
I THOUGHT ABOUT YOU THE WHOLE BATTLE.


FANIA? WHAT ARE YOU DOING THERE? WHY AREN'T YOU CELEBRATING WITH THE OTHERS?

I'LL GO WHEN MY TACHANKA IS SPICK-AND-SPAN.
YOU'RE REMARKABLE.

CAREFUL, MAKHNO. MY HANDS ARE COVERED WITH GREASE.

RAISE YOUR ARMS, BEAUTIFUL. YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO GET ME DIRTY.

EVERYTHING ABOUT YOU IS REMARKABLE.

HULIAIPOLE, ONE MONTH LATER
EVERYONE, STOP AND LISTEN!
WE'VE CHASED AWAY THE GERMANS, BUT OUR INFORMANTS REPORT OTHER INVADERS HAVE BEEN SEEN IN CRIMEA: WHITE COSSACKS, THE TSAR'S FAITHFUL SOLDIERS, WHO WANT TO RECONQUER US.
THEY WANT TO DEFEAT THE BOLSHEVIKS AND TAKE MOSCOW. THEIR PATH RUNS RIGHT THROUGH UKRAINE. THE WAR IS STARTING BACK UP AGAIN. WE LACK GUNS AND BULLETS NOW. WE LACK EVERYTHING.
WE HAVE OUR SABERS. WE HAVE OUR ARMS. WE HAVE OUR TEETH AND OUR NAILS. FOR THESE NEW BATTLES, I MOVE WE NOMINATE NESTOR IVANOVYCH MAKHNO AS THE SUPREME ATAMAN, AS IN THE TIMES OF THE ZAPHROZHZHIAN COSSACKS. LET'S GIVE HIM THE TITLE OF BATKO!
YES, MAKHNO! OUR FATHER! OUR GUIDE! OUR BATKO!
THE MOMENT HAS COME, NESTOR. NOW YOU CAN BRING OUT YOUR SILVER CRESCENTS AND WEAR THEM. IT'S YOUR RIGHT AND YOUR DUTY.
I...I NO LONGER HAVE THEM. THE RUSSIANS STOLE THOSE EARRINGS WHEN I WAS IN PRISON.
OH, NO... OH, DEAR.

THESE WHITE COSSACKS ARE THE TOUGHEST OPPONENTS WE'VE EVER ENCOUNTERED!
YES, AND WE'RE ALL GOING TO DIE HERE. BUT YOU MUST SURVIVE. YOU'RE OUR BATKO. TAKE MY HORSE.
COME WITH ME. THAT'S AN ORDER!

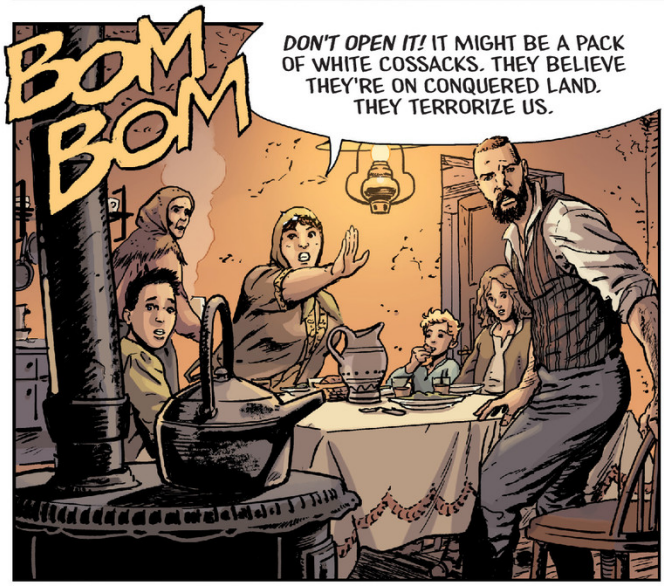
GO, NESTOR!

DIE BRAVELY, MEN--TAKE AS MANY OF THEM WITH YOU AS POSSIBLE!

I WANT THESE MAKHNOVISTS ALIVE.

GO! GATHER THE VILLAGERS BY THE RIVER.
I AM COLONEL ANTROPOV, THE TSAR'S COSSACK. THE EMPIRE WILL BE REBORN. I WANT YOU TO SEE WHAT HAPPENS TO THOSE WHO REBEL AGAINST HIS AUTHORITY.
CHOP OFF THEIR FEET!
AAAH!
TCHOCK
MAKHNO WILL COME AND TAKE REVENGE ON YOU, ANTROPOV. AND ALL YOUR EXECUTIONERS!
TCHOCK TCHOCK
FOR YOU, LEADER OF THE BLACK COSSACKS, I'VE RESERVED A SPECIAL TREATMENT!
THIS IS AWFUL. THESE MEN ARE MONSTERS.
WE CAN'T LET THEM DO THIS. WE MUST ACT! THERE ARE MORE OF US.

YOU'RE CRAZY!
HE'LL MAKE SHORT WORK OF US AND OUR FAMILIES.
A TRUE COSSACK LOVES TO DIE ASTRIDE A HORSE!
THAT'S HOW YOU'LL DIE.
THROW HER IN!
YOU, TOO, WILL BE SWALLOWED UP BY THE SOIL OF UKRAINE, ANTROPOV! DON'T FORGET WHAT I'M TELLING YOU TODAY!
NOOOO!
WHO SCREAMED? SOMEONE WANTS TO JOIN THIS WOMAN?


BOM BOM
DON'T OPEN IT! IT MIGHT BE A PACK OF WHITE COSSACKS. THEY BELIEVE THEY'RE ON CONQUERED LAND. THEY TERRORIZE US.

I SEE ONLY A MAN COLLAPSED AT THE DOOR. WE SHOULD BRING HIM IN.

WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE? WHO ARE YOU?
I'M NESTOR IVANOVYCH MAKHNO.

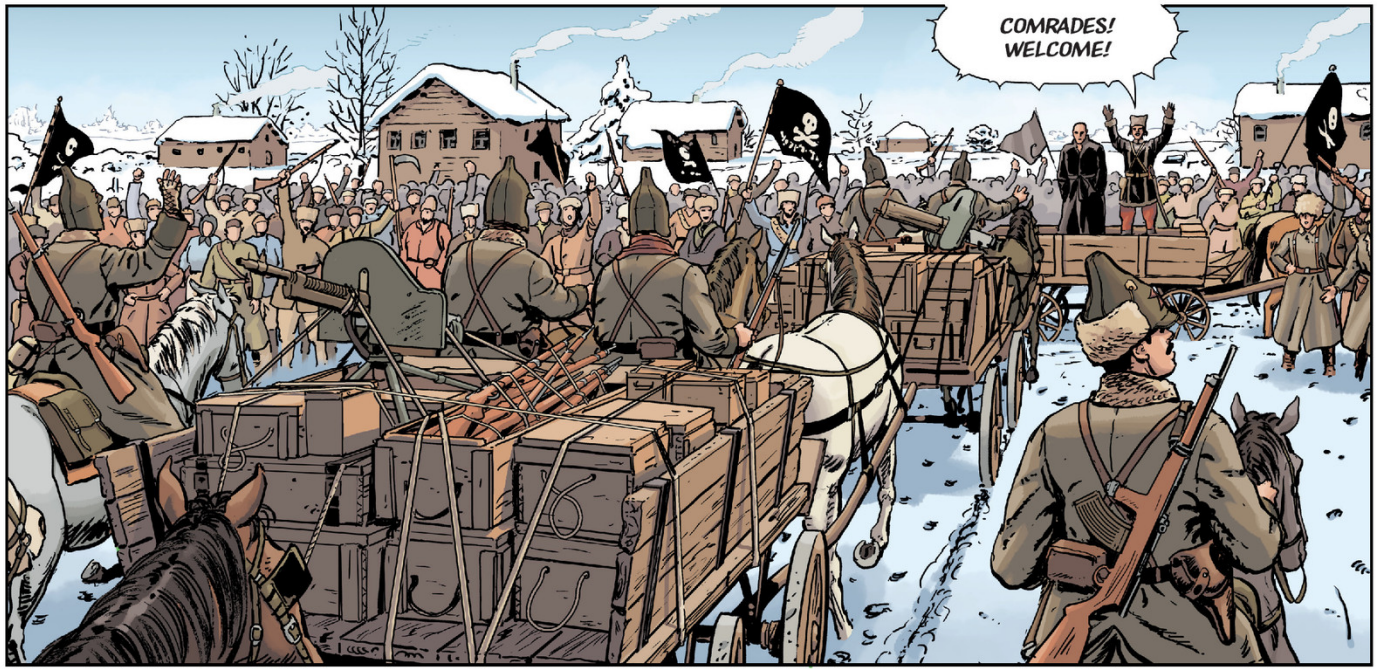
YOU... YOU'RE OUR BATKO? PRAISE BE THE FATE THAT ALLOWS US TO SAVE YOU, YOU WHO SAVED US ALL.

HERE, BATKO. WOULD YOU LIKE ANYTHING ELSE?

TAKE ME HOME.

HULIAIPOLE
SUKIN AND HER FAMILY SAVED ME.
WITHOUT THEM, I WOULD HAVE LOST MY FEET... PROBABLY MY LIFE.
NESTOR! YOU'RE AWAKE.
I'M GOING TO DRAW YOUR BATH. A MAN WANTS TO SEE YOU. WE SET UP A MEETING AT THE INN THREE LEAGUES FROM HERE.
WHAT? WHO IS THIS MAN?
COMRADE LEON TROTSKY.

IT'S BATKO MAKHNO.
BOM BOM
IVAN ZADOV!
YES, MY BROTHER, IT'S ME. I'VE WORKED WITH COMRADE TROTSKY FOR OVER A YEAR NOW. COME IN.
NESTOR IVANOVYCH! LET *US* BE BROTHERS, TOO!
ON MY ORDER, THE BOLSHEVIKS WILL SUPPLY YOU WITH WEAPONS AND AMMUNITION. I KNOW YOU SORELY LACK THEM. WE NEED *ALL* THE REVOLUTIONARY FORCES TO PUSH THE WHITES, THAT WANT TO RESTORE TYRANNY, *BACK* TO THE SEA.
COMRADE IVAN ZADOV WILL LEAD THE WEAPONS CONVOY IN PERSON. THEN HE'LL STAY WITH YOU.
YOU SEE, TO SEAL OUR DEAL, I'M READY TO PART WITH A FRIEND AND RETURN HIM TO YOU.
THANK YOU, COMRADE.


COMRADES! WELCOME!

THIS TIME THE REVOLUTION *CAN'T* FAIL.
WHICH REVOLUTION, NESTOR? OURS OR THE *BOLSHEVIKS'*?

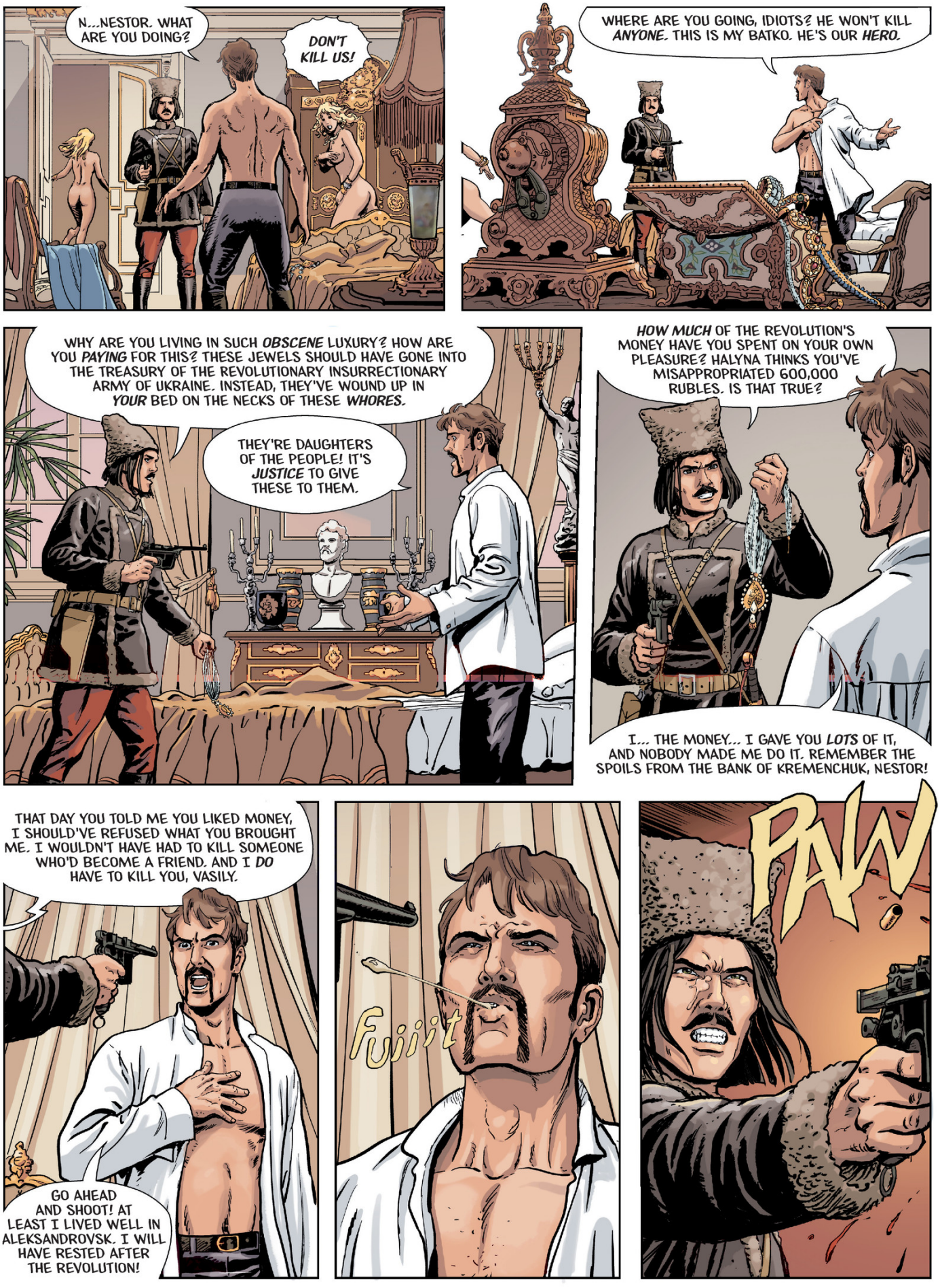
REMEMBER THE ZAPROZHIANS. *THEY* FORMED AN ALLIANCE WITH THE RUSSIANS AND BECAME THEIR *SLAVES*. BECAUSE UKRAINE IS NOTHING MORE THAN *SOUTHERN RUSSIA* TO THOSE IMPERIALISTS.

YOU'RE A HARBINGER OF DOOM. THIS ALLIANCE IS JUST TEMPORARY.
AND I'M VERY HAPPY IVAN ZADOV WILL REMAIN WITH US.

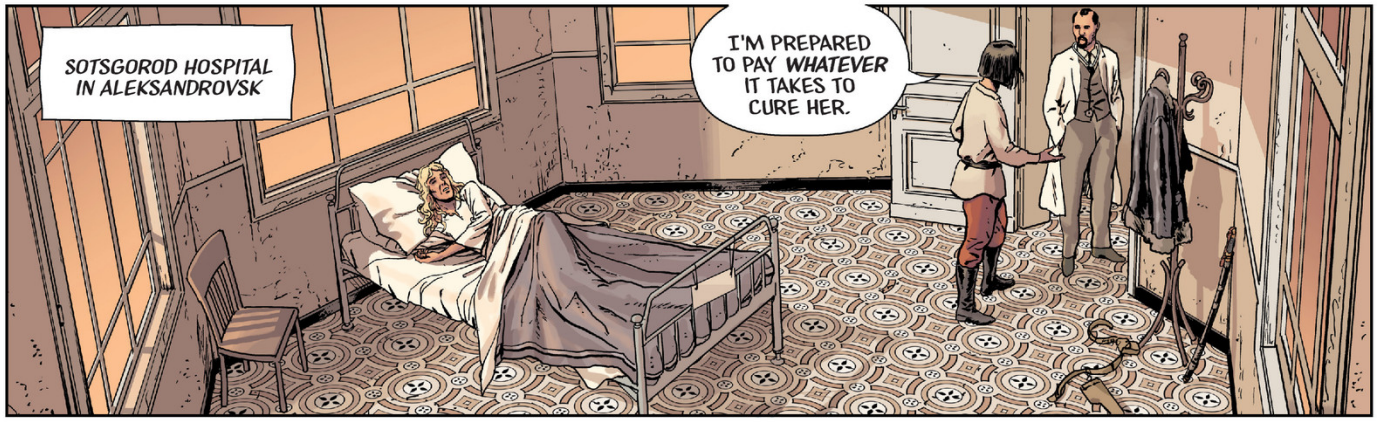
WHAT'S GOING ON?
I HAVE TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT VASILY MARCHENKO. IT'S *SERIOUS*.

NESTOR!
HERE'S SOMEONE ELSE WHO DOESN'T SEEM TO SHARE YOUR ENTHUSIASM, MAKHNO.

ALEKSANDROVSK
IS THIS *REALLY* WHERE COMMANDER MARCHENKO LIVES?
YES, BATKO. COME IN. I'LL ALERT HIM.
I'LL ANNOUNCE *MYSELF.*
GET UP, VASILY.
HELP!


N...NESTOR. WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
DON'T KILL US!
WHERE ARE YOU GOING, IDIOTS? HE WON'T KILL ANYONE. THIS IS MY BATKO. HE'S OUR HERO.
WHY ARE YOU LIVING IN SUCH OBSCENE LUXURY? HOW ARE YOU PAYING FOR THIS? THESE JEWELS SHOULD HAVE GONE INTO THE TREASURY OF THE REVOLUTIONARY INSURRECTIONARY ARMY OF UKRAINE. INSTEAD, THEY'VE WOUND UP IN YOUR BED ON THE NECKS OF THESE WHORES.
THEY'RE DAUGHTERS OF THE PEOPLE! IT'S JUSTICE TO GIVE THESE TO THEM.
HOW MUCH OF THE REVOLUTION'S MONEY HAVE YOU SPENT ON YOUR OWN PLEASURE? HALYNA THINKS YOU'VE MISAPPROPRIATED 600,000 RUBLES. IS THAT TRUE?
I... THE MONEY... I GAVE YOU LOTS OF IT, AND NOBODY MADE ME DO IT. REMEMBER THE SPOILS FROM THE BANK OF KREMENCHUK, NESTOR!
THAT DAY YOU TOLD ME YOU LIKED MONEY, I SHOULD'VE REFUSED WHAT YOU BROUGHT ME. I WOULDN'T HAVE HAD TO KILL SOMEONE WHO'D BECOME A FRIEND. AND I DO HAVE TO KILL YOU, VASILY.
GO AHEAD AND SHOOT! AT LEAST I LIVED WELL IN ALEKSANDROVSK. I WILL HAVE RESTED AFTER THE REVOLUTION!
Fuiiit
PAW

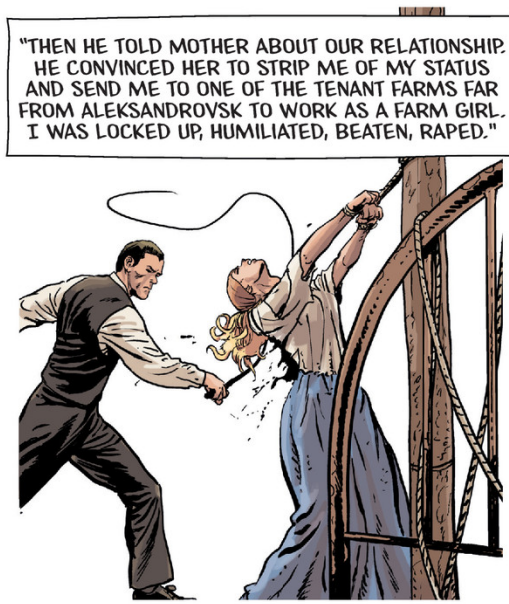
WHY DID YOU DO IT, VASILY?
WHY DID YOU MAKE ME DO IT?
COME HERE, HANDSOME! YOU'RE AS WHITE AS A SHEET. I'LL MAKE YOU FEEL GOOD AGAIN. COME ON, FOLLOW ME INSIDE. HAVE A GLASS OF CLARET AND SOME FUN!
GET OUT, YOU FILTHY LUSH! AND DON'T EVER COME BACK!
ENTER, ENTER, NOBLE COSSACK! SORRY THAT PANHANDLER TOUCHED YOUR FINE UNIFORM.
THAT WOMAN... SHE'S WEARING SILVER CRESCENTS!
WHERE DID YOU GET YOUR EARRINGS? ANSWER ME, BITCH OR YOU'LL BLEED OUT IN THIS GUTTER!
N...NESTOR... IT'S YOU...
K...KATRIN!

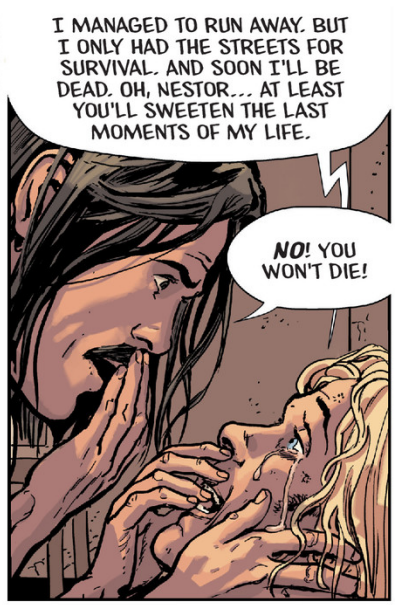

SOTSGOROD HOSPITAL IN ALEKSANDROVSK
I'M PREPARED TO PAY *WHATEVER* IT TAKES TO CURE HER.

I'M AFRAID HER TUBERCULOSIS IS IN THE FINAL STAGE. ALL THE MONEY IN THE WORLD COULDN'T SAVE HER.
COME HERE.

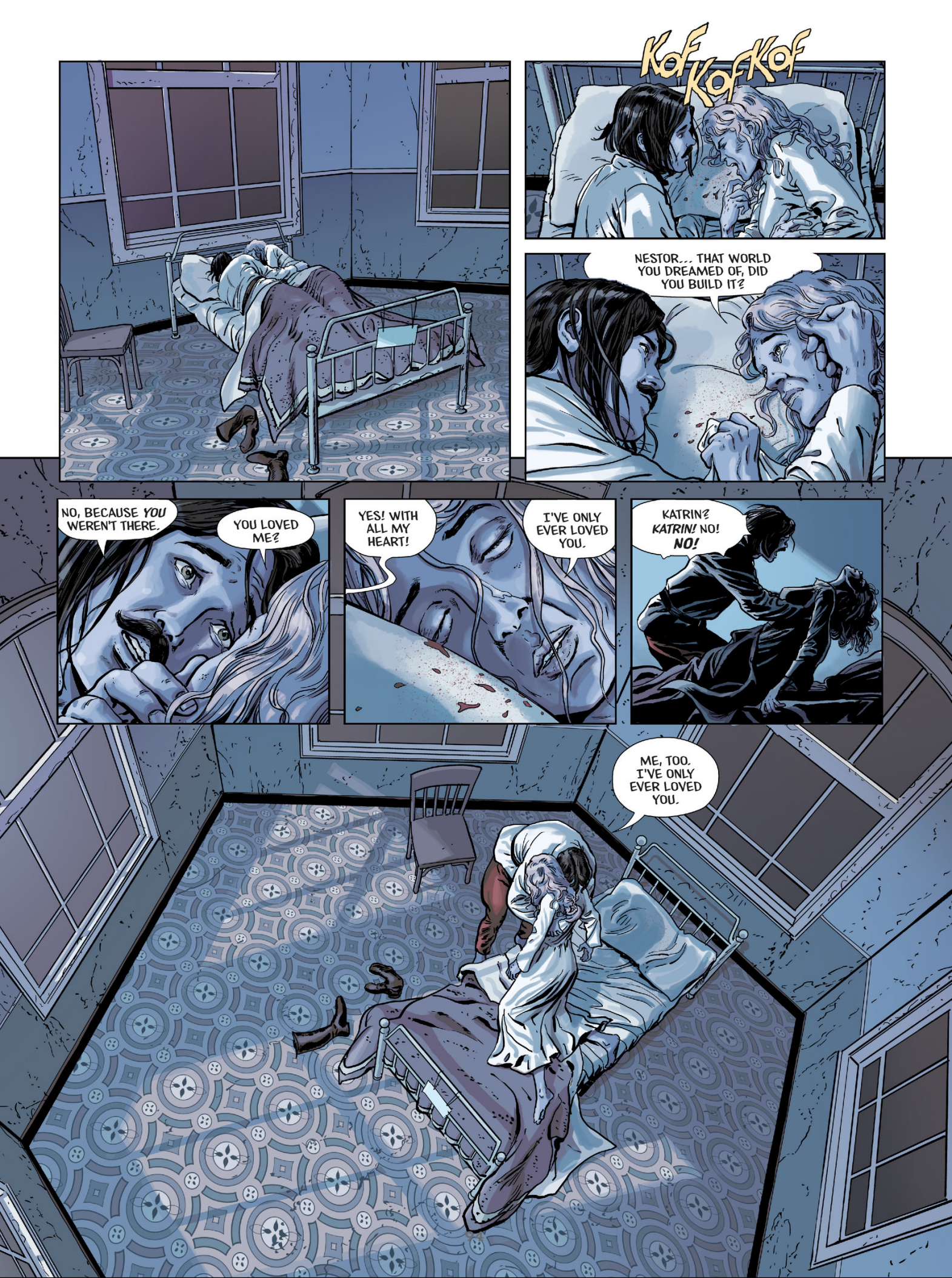
DON'T COME TOO CLOSE, NESTOR. KEEP YOUR DISTANCE. CONSUMPTION IS CONTAGIOUS. WHY WAS FATE SO CRUEL AS TO SEPARATE US, ONLY TO HAVE US FIND EACH OTHER AGAIN TOO LATE?
WHAT *HAPPENED?* CAN YOU TELL ME?

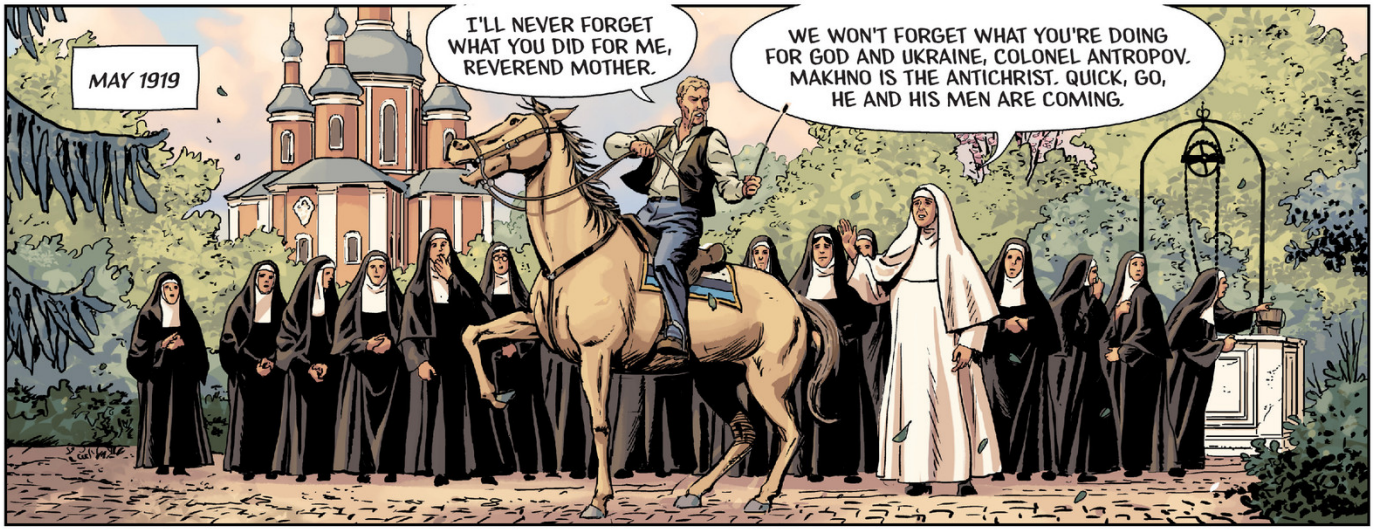
"I DIDN'T KNOW IT, BUT DANIEL SPIED ON MY COMINGS AND GOINGS. HE HEARD OUR CONVERSATION WHEN YOU TALKED ABOUT THE ATTACK ON THE ESTATE. HE SOUNDED THE ALARM TO THE AUTHORITIES.

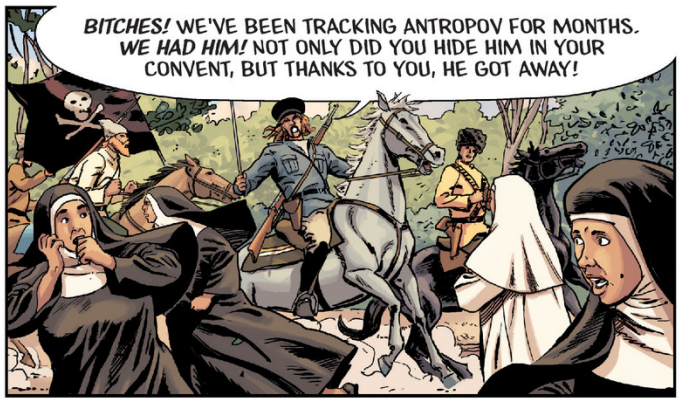

"THEN HE TOLD MOTHER ABOUT OUR RELATIONSHIP. HE CONVINCED HER TO STRIP ME OF MY STATUS AND SEND ME TO ONE OF THE TENANT FARMS FAR FROM ALEKSANDROVSK TO WORK AS A FARM GIRL. I WAS LOCKED UP, HUMILIATED, BEATEN, RAPED."


I MANAGED TO RUN AWAY. BUT I ONLY HAD THE STREETS FOR SURVIVAL. AND SOON I'LL BE DEAD. OH, NESTOR... AT LEAST YOU'LL SWEETEN THE LAST MOMENTS OF MY LIFE.
NO! YOU WON'T DIE!

NESTOR! NO!
I WON'T LEAVE YOU AGAIN.


KOF KOF KOF
NESTOR... THAT WORLD YOU DREAMED OF, DID YOU BUILD IT?
NO, BECAUSE *YOU* WEREN'T THERE.
YOU LOVED ME?
YES! WITH ALL MY HEART!
I'VE ONLY EVER LOVED YOU.
KATRIN? *KATRIN!* NO! ***NO!***
ME, TOO. I'VE ONLY EVER LOVED YOU.


MAY 1919
I'LL NEVER FORGET WHAT YOU DID FOR ME, REVEREND MOTHER.
WE WON'T FORGET WHAT YOU'RE DOING FOR GOD AND UKRAINE, COLONEL ANTROPOV. MAKHNO IS THE ANTICHRIST. QUICK, GO, HE AND HIS MEN ARE COMING.


BITCHES! WE'VE BEEN TRACKING ANTROPOV FOR MONTHS. *WE HAD HIM!* NOT ONLY DID YOU HIDE HIM IN YOUR CONVENT, BUT THANKS TO YOU, HE GOT AWAY!

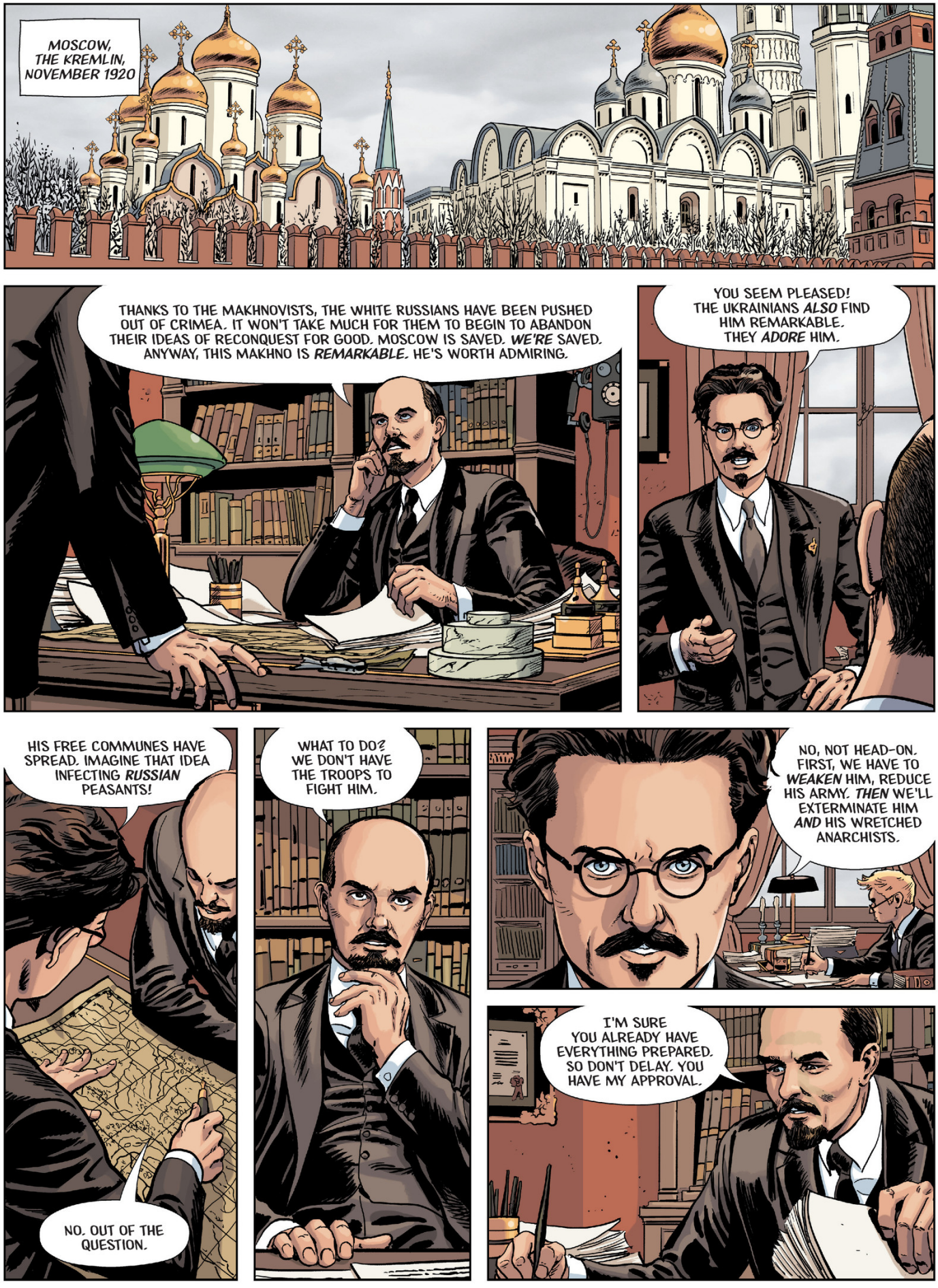
YOU'LL PAY FOR THIS!
THIS IS FOR MARUSYA AND THE BLACK COSSACKS!

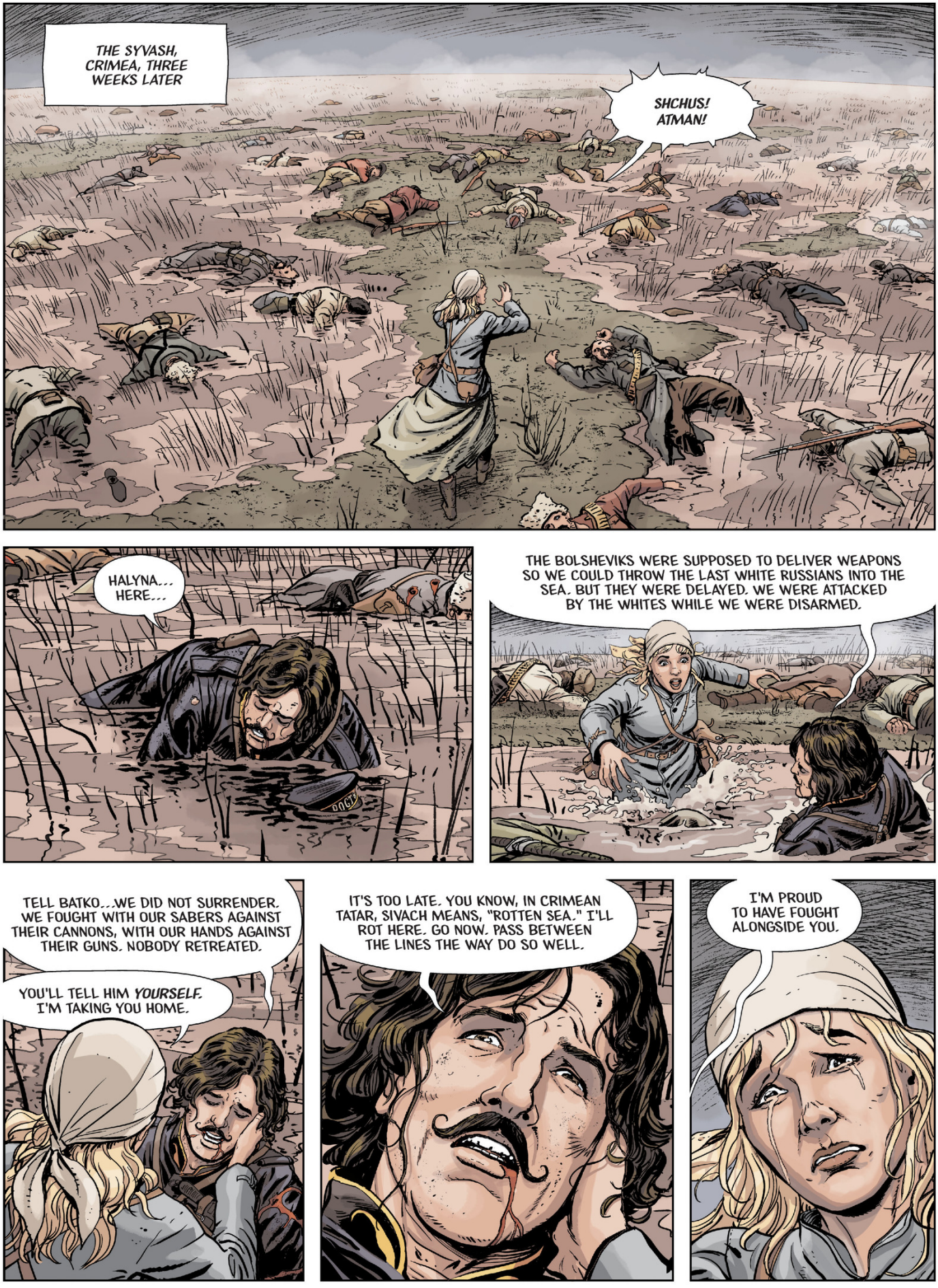
NO! KILL ME, BUT SPARE THEM!
YOU'RE *ALL* GOING TO DIE.

PLEASE SHOW MERCY! TELL YOUR MEN TO LEAVE US.

WATCH YOUR SISTERS *SUFFER* BEFORE I KILL *YOU* AS WELL.

PIOTR! YOU'RE *GOING*? YOU'RE REALLY GOING?
I DON'T AGREE WITH YOUR REIGN OF TERROR, MAKHNO.
ONE DAY, A MAN WENT TO AKEXANDROVSK TO DO HIS DUTY. THAT MAN WAS MY FRIEND. BUT THAT MAN CAME BACK DIFFERENT--INSENSITIVE, CRUEL. *YES*, I'M LEAVING YOU, BATKO.
YOU DON'T LIKE TO GET *DIRTY*, ARSHINOV. I'M NOT AFRAID TO. *THAT'S* HOW THE REVOLUTION WILL TRIUMPH.
GO TO HELL!
KOF KOF KOF
IT'S...IT'S *BLOOD*.
TUBERCULOSIS.

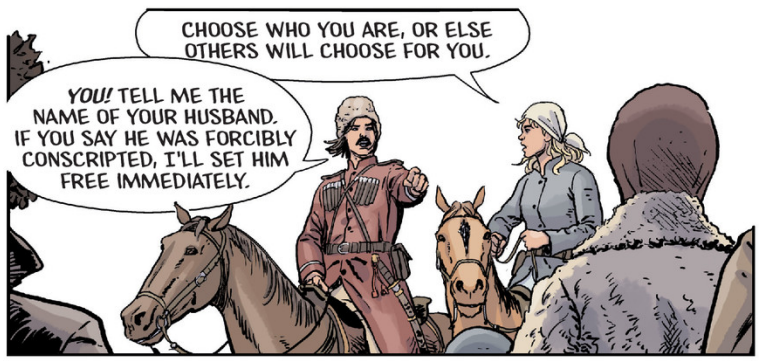

MOSCOW, THE KREMLIN, NOVEMBER 1920
THANKS TO THE MAKHNOVISTS, THE WHITE RUSSIANS HAVE BEEN PUSHED OUT OF CRIMEA. IT WON'T TAKE MUCH FOR THEM TO BEGIN TO ABANDON THEIR IDEAS OF RECONQUEST FOR GOOD. MOSCOW IS SAVED. WE'RE SAVED. ANYWAY, THIS MAKHNO IS REMARKABLE. HE'S WORTH ADMIRING.
YOU SEEM PLEASED! THE UKRAINIANS ALSO FIND HIM REMARKABLE. THEY ADORE HIM.
HIS FREE COMMUNES HAVE SPREAD. IMAGINE THAT IDEA INFECTING RUSSIAN PEASANTS!
NO. OUT OF THE QUESTION.
WHAT TO DO? WE DON'T HAVE THE TROOPS TO FIGHT HIM.
NO, NOT HEAD-ON. FIRST, WE HAVE TO WEAKEN HIM, REDUCE HIS ARMY. THEN WE'LL EXTERMINATE HIM AND HIS WRETCHED ANARCHISTS.
I'M SURE YOU ALREADY HAVE EVERYTHING PREPARED. SO DON'T DELAY. YOU HAVE MY APPROVAL.


THE SYVASH, CRIMEA, THREE WEEKS LATER
SHCHUS! ATMAN!
HALYNA... HERE...
THE BOLSHEVIKS WERE SUPPOSED TO DELIVER WEAPONS SO WE COULD THROW THE LAST WHITE RUSSIANS INTO THE SEA. BUT THEY WERE DELAYED. WE WERE ATTACKED BY THE WHITES WHILE WE WERE DISARMED.
TELL BATKO...WE DID NOT SURRENDER. WE FOUGHT WITH OUR SABERS AGAINST THEIR CANNONS, WITH OUR HANDS AGAINST THEIR GUNS. NOBODY RETREATED.
YOU'LL TELL HIM *YOURSELF*. I'M TAKING YOU HOME.
IT'S TOO LATE. YOU KNOW, IN CRIMEAN TATAR, SIVACH MEANS, "ROTTEN SEA." I'LL ROT HERE. GO NOW. PASS BETWEEN THE LINES THE WAY DO SO WELL.
I'M PROUD TO HAVE FOUGHT ALONGSIDE YOU.

THE ENEMY NEVER FALTERS. WE CUT OFF ITS HEAD; ANOTHER GROWS BACK IN ITS PLACE. WE NEED MEN FOR OUR ARMY. WE'RE GOING THROUGH THE VILLAGES OF UKRAINE TO FIND BRAVE MEN.
THE WAR. STILL THE WAR. ALWAYS *THE WAR*. THERE'S NOTHING MORE THAN THAT.
IT'S THE WAR THAT *FORCES* ME TO ASK FARMERS TO LEAVE THEIR FIELDS. IT'S FOR THE STRUGGLE.
THE STRUGGLE FOR *WHAT*? YOU ALLIED YOURSELF WITH THE BOLSHEVIKS, AND YOU LET THOSE RUSSIAN INVADERS ENTER OUR COUNTRY. WE LOVE OUR COUNTRY MAKHNO. WE *LOVE* UKRAINE.
AND I LOVE MY LAND! I KNOW NO BORDERS. I KNOW NO COUNTRIES. I ONLY KNOW FREE MEN.

FREE? YOU SAID JOINING MAKNOVSHCHINA WAS ENTIRELY *OUR* CHOICE, BUT YOU ACT LIKE THE WHITES; YOU ACT LIKE THE REDS. YOU *CONSCRIPTED* OUR MEN.
YOU'RE *KILLING* YOUR PEOPLE!

YOU CAN'T SAVE *AND* OPPRESS YOUR PEOPLE AT THE SAME TIME. YOU HAVE TO CHOOSE.
CHOOSE? THESE AREN'T CHOICES, ONLY THE ACTIONS THAT CIRCUMSTANCES IMPOSE ON ME. I NEVER WANTED TO *OPPRESS* ANYONE.


CHOOSE WHO YOU ARE, OR ELSE OTHERS WILL CHOOSE FOR YOU.
YOU! TELL ME THE NAME OF YOUR HUSBAND. IF YOU SAY HE WAS FORCIBLY CONSCRIPTED, I'LL SET HIM FREE IMMEDIATELY.

THAT'S WHERE HE RESTS.

LEON TROTSKY'S ARMORED TRAIN. RUSSIA, NEAR THE NORTHEAST UKRAINIAN BORDER
YOU'VE STOPPED SUPPLYING OUR ARMY WITH GUNS AND BULLETS, COMRADE TROTSKY. THAT'S AGAINST OUR AGREEMENT.
I PROPOSE ANOTHER AGREEMENT, MAKHNO. WE'LL RESUME DELIVERIES ON THE CONDITION THAT YOUR ARMY INVADES POLAND. THE COUNTRY IS COMPLETELY DIVIDED. YOU'LL GO AHEAD OF OUR TROOPS, WHICH WILL TAKE THE SOCIALIST REVOLUTION THERE.
I HAVE NO DESIRE TO KILL POLES. I WANT TO REESTABLISH FREE COMMUNES IN UKRAINE. THAT'S *ALL* THAT MATTERS TO ME. THAT'S MY LAST WORD.
TOO BAD FOR YOU. *FIRE!*
HE GOT AWAY.
SHOOT ZADOV. HE'S MAKHNO'S FRIEND.

ALEKSANDROVSK. VASILY MARCHENKO'S FORMER RESIDENCE
A TEMPORARY ALLIANCE WITH THE WHITES IS NECESSARY, NESTOR.
I DON'T WANT TO EAT.
I DON'T WANT TO ALLY MYSELF WITH RUSSIANS ANYMORE, WHOEVER THEY ARE. LOOK WHERE THE ALLIANCE WITH THE BOLSHEVIKS LED US... NOW THEY'RE KILLING OUR SUPPORTERS. THEY'RE HUNTING US.
AT LEAST AGREE TO RECEIVE THE WHITE'S EMISSARY. LISTEN TO WHAT COLONEL ANTROPOV HAS TO SAY TO YOU AND THEN MAKE YOUR DECISION. BUT REALIZE THAT WE NO LONGER HAVE A CHOICE. IF WE FACE THE REDS ALONE, THEY'LL CRUSH US. NEXT THEY'LL TAKE ON THE WHITES, AND THEN ALL OF UKRAINE.
THE EMISSARY'S NAME IS ANTROPOV?
OKAY, I'LL AGREE TO MEET HIM.
I'M HUNGRY!

NESTOR, I *BEG* YOU. YOU'RE MAKING A HUGE MISTAKE.

REMEMBER MARUSYA KLIMENKOVA?

ON MY COMMAND.

FIRE!

IT'S ALL OVER NOW.

SONS OF BITCHES!
WHEN THE GERMANS TRIED TO BURN DOWN YOUR HOUSES, YOU LOOKED TO YOUR BATKO. WHEN THE WHITES TRIED TO RETURN AND SOW TERROR, YOU LOOKED TO YOUR BATKO.
BUT THEN LENIN PUT YOU TO *SLEEP* WITH THE NEP*, AND THE BOLSHEVIK COMMISSARS GAVE YOU *TINY* PLOTS OF LAND. SO YOU *DROPPED* THE INSURRECTIONARY ARMY! YOU DON'T *CARE* ABOUT FREEDOM!
WHAT'S GOING ON, BATKO?
JOIN MY ARMY, SUKIN, OR ELSE... OR ELSE...
WHAT ARMY? YOU'VE ONLY GOT A HANDFUL OF MEN AND THAT MACHINE.
THE TRUTH IS YOU'RE A *COWARD*...AND I'M GOING TO KILL YOU.
BATKO, *NO!* REMEMBER, WE *WELCOMED* YOU. WE GAVE YOU BACK TO YOUR LOVED ONES! WE...
THAT'S ENOUGH!
YOU'RE BETRAYING ME, *TOO*, BITCH?
NESTOR! NO!

* NEW ECONOMIC POLICY.

FANIA!
FANIA, NO! WHY DID I DO THAT...? FANIA... YOU NEEDED TO SHOOT FIRST. YOU WOULD'VE DONE ME A FAVOR.
NESTOR, COME.
NO! LET ME DIE!
AAAH!
MOTHER! NO! AAH!
THE BOLSHEVIKS! RUN, HALYNA! THE BATKO'S STILL ALIVE. TAKE HIM. WE'LL RESIST AS LONG AS WE CAN.
THANK YOU. FAREWELL.
THIS TIME WE MUST LEAVE UKRAINE...

VINCENNES, 1934
LOOK WHAT I BROUGHT YOU, NESTOR. MASSANDRA WINE! WINE FROM UKRAINE.
THAT BOTTLE MUST HAVE COST YOU A FORTUNE. I THOUGHT YOU WERE AS POOR AS ME...
UH...YOU'LL SEE. IT'S NICELY CHILLED.
THIS IS A TELEGRAM I GOT FROM HALYNA TODAY. I TELEGRAPHED HER THAT YOU WERE IN PARIS. SHE'S KEPT SOME KIND OF A SPY NETWORK RUNNING. PEOPLE DON'T CHANGE. SHE TOLD ME NOT TO TRUST YOU.
HERE, NESTOR.
THAT WINE IS TOO SWEET. TOO BOURGEOIS. I PREFER VODKA, BUT I DON'T HAVE ANY MORE.
WHY AREN'T YOU DRINKING YOUR WINE?
I...I...
WHY HESITATE WHEN YOU'VE GOT SOMETHING IMPORTANT TO ACCOMPLISH?
I DON'T HESITATE. I'VE NEVER LET OTHERS CHOOSE FOR ME.
STAY THERE, YOU BASTARD!

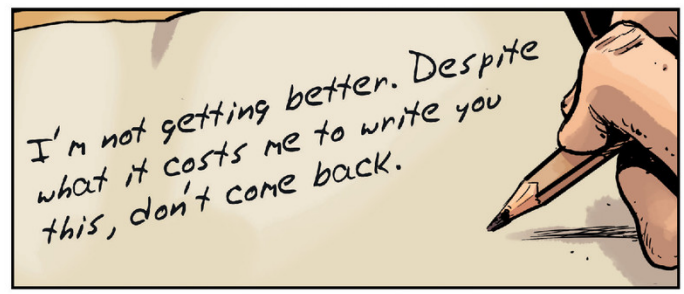
PAW! PAW! PAW!
YOU WON'T GET AWAY FROM ME!
I'LL GET YOU WHEN YOU LEAVE THE BUILDING, TRAITOR!
MOVE!
THERE YOU ARE!
NO, I COULD HURT SOMEONE.
LOOK OUT, MISTER! NO!
Hiiiiiiiiiii

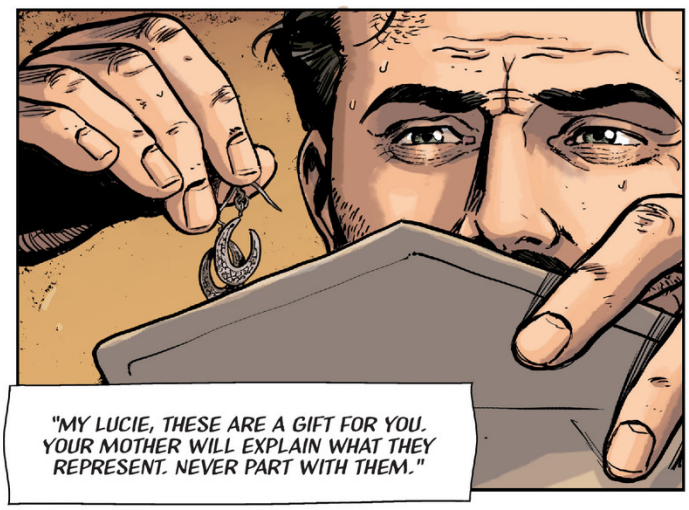
THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO.

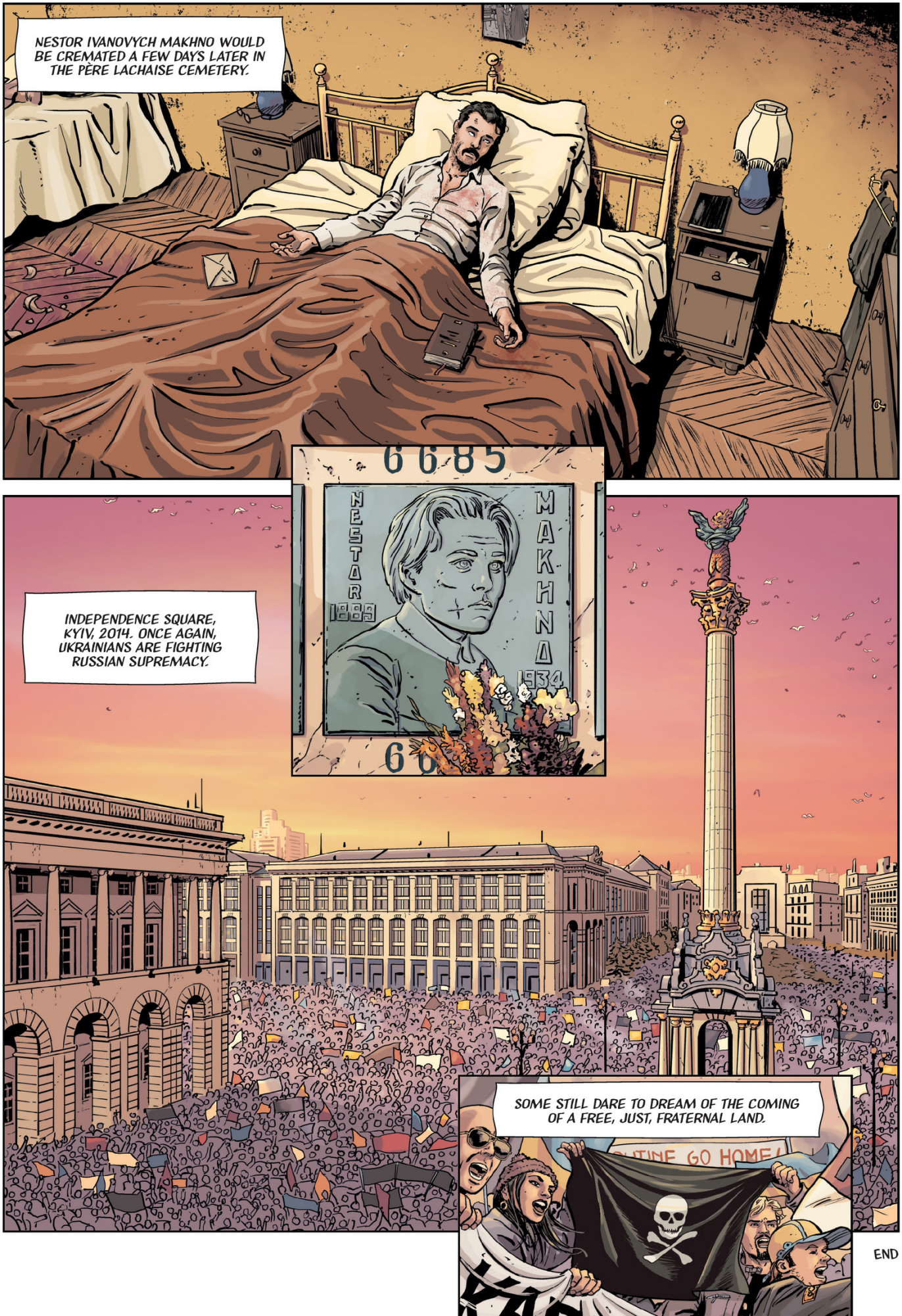
KOF KOF
YOU'RE DEAD, KOLIA, AND IT WON'T BE LONG BEFORE I FOLLOW YOU. YOU SHOULD'VE WAITED FOR THINGS TO TAKE THEIR COURSE.

THIS WILL STAY UNFINISHED, BUT THE MEMORY OF THE MAKHNO ATAMANS WILL NEVER DIE.

THANKS TO THESE.


I'm not getting better. Despite what it costs me to write you this, don't come back.


"MY LUCIE, THESE ARE A GIFT FOR YOU. YOUR MOTHER WILL EXPLAIN WHAT THEY REPRESENT. NEVER PART WITH THEM."


NESTOR IVANOVYCH MAKHNO WOULD BE CREMATED A FEW DAYS LATER IN THE PÈRE LACHAISE CEMETERY.
6685
NESTOR
1889
MAKHNO
1934
INDEPENDENCE SQUARE, KYIV, 2014. ONCE AGAIN, UKRAINIANS ARE FIGHTING RUSSIAN SUPREMACY.
SOME STILL DARE TO DREAM OF THE COMING OF A FREE, JUST, FRATERNAL LAND.
END

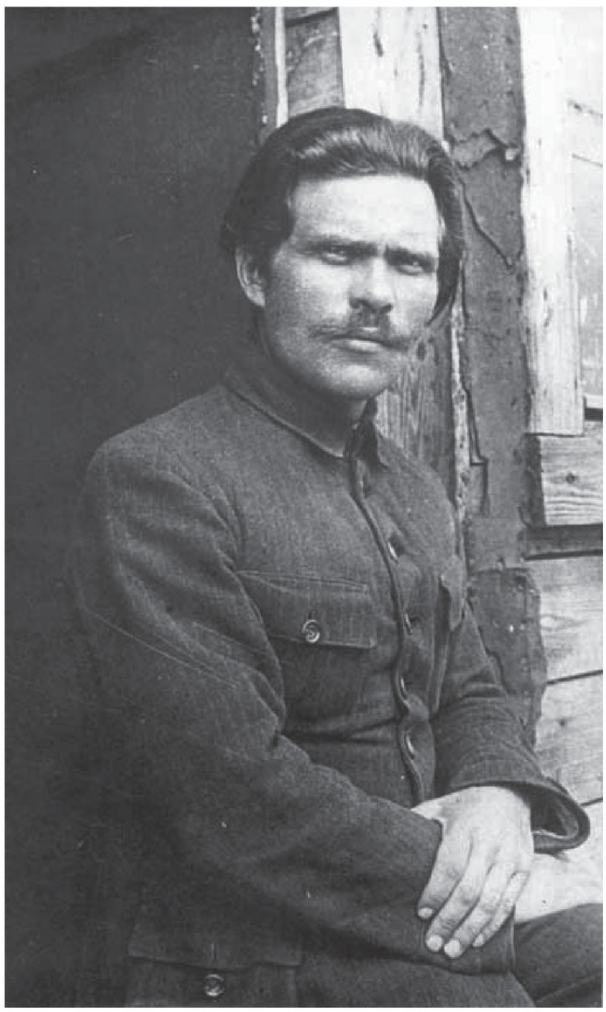
MAKHNO: HERO OF THE PEOPLE

"Even dead and buried, Makhno's country bumpkins with their pitchforks will always be right compared to Lenin, his pretentious know-it-alls, and his models."

Alain Fleig, *Lutte de cons et piege a classe* (trans., *"Fights of Fools and Class Traps"*), 1975

THE STORY you just read is a fictionalized account of the life of Nestor Makhno. So, let us now take a look at the real Makhno, a remarkable man who could have changed the face of Europe.

"Across all of Ukraine
Our partisans arose...
Maknovshchina Maknovshchina
Our partisans were those:
Black arms fought in Ukraine
'Gainst Reds and Whites, their foes."



The lyrics of this song by anarchist Etienne Roda-Gil were set to a traditional tune, the text of which changed depending on whether the tsarists, fascists, Bolsheviks, or others sang it. The words glorify one of the most important events in the 20th century, the final failure of which allowed one of the deadliest regimes in history to be established in Eastern Europe.

Nestor Ivanovych Miknienko was born in 1888 to a peasant family in the Ukrainian town of Huliaipole. Fatherless, a shepherd at seven, and a farm worker at 12, he became an anarchist during the 1905 revolution. At the age of 20, he participated in a failed assassination attempt and was sentenced to death, which was commuted to a life sentence of forced labor due to his youth. He remained incarcerated until the second revolution in 1917. Trained during his prison sojourn by locksmith and anarchist leader Piotr Arshinov, he became Makhno. His character was established: stubborn, intelligent and distinctly charismatic. With a face marked by smallpox and a fiery gaze, he led the Soviets in the Huliaipole region, organized communes with 100-300 volunteers, expropriated exploiters, put lands in the hands of poor peasants, placed businesses under self-management, and imposed Francisco Ferrer's libertarian and avantgarde educational methods in the schools. He founded labor and agricultural unions and then, in January 1918, he founded an army, the Makhnovshchina, with railroad worker Viktor Belash at its head. The army – which flew a black flag and employed guerilla tactics – would quickly grow to 50,000 men – maybe twice as many – with cannons, trains taken from the enemy, and lightweight carts – the tachankas – which allowed for quick moves and concomitant, simultaneous attacks in several locations. Anarchist principles ruled, with freely accepted discipline and elected officers (Makhno reserved the right to veto commanders). Popular support from his humble, often illiterate, followers was total; they supplied him with hiding places, food, and equipment. More communes were created across all of Ukraine. The peasant Basil Korylenko in Berdyansk, the sailor Shchus in Dibrivka, and Petrenko-Platonov in Grishchino followed in Makhno's footsteps, while several anarchist leaders joined him: his friend Arshinov, then Voline (Vsevolod Mikhailovich Eikhenbaum), Aron Baron, and Osip Tsebriy (all members of Nabat: Nabat Confederation of Anarchist Organizations)–organized conferences, meetings, propaganda and education.

Makhno met Lenin in Moscow, but the latter's visceral hostility towards what he could not control was obvious; he hated libertarian socialists. And the ones in

Moscow - led by Piotr Kropotkin - did not understand Makhno and they wouldn't help him.

The war ruined everything. Makhno first fought the Whites, the army of the far-right grand bourgeois tsarists led by the Ataman Petlyura, an anti-Semite whose pogroms the Bolsheviks later attributed to Makhno. Lenin signed the Brest-Litovsk peace treaty which, among other things, delivered Ukraine to Austro-Hungary. Petlyura took advantage of Makhno's trip to Moscow to have his brother (wounded in the war) killed and his home burnt down. The response was bloody and bitter: police and officers were summarily executed. Successive White officers joined forces against Makhno and were considered freedom fighters (i.e., anti-communists) in Western Europe, while slanderous Communist propaganda slammed Makhno as a bandit.

That's when the Reds got involved. Their technique was clear: Makhno was enemy No. 1; so they had him fight the Whites, then occupied the towns he had liberated while boasting of having done so, and shot him in the back as soon as they could. Trotsky and Djerzinksy (founder of the dreary Cheka, the Soviet secret police), who always opposed the anarchists, were the most relentless of the Bolsheviks. Consequently, Makhno, who had attempted a revolutionary alliance for a time and agreed to join forces with the Red Army (under his Black flag) in order to fight General Denikin, had to fight the Reds and the Whites at the same time. Leftist Pavel Dybenko, leader of the Bolshevik army, treated him as a counterrevolutionary and a "kulak" (rich peasant), before attempting to have him assassinated. Trotsky declared, "It would be better to let Denikin have all of Ukraine than allow the Makhnovist movement to expand." And so the attack on Huliaipole was launched, with large-scale executions to boot. Trotsky tasked Kliment Voroshilov, a member of the Red Ukrainian government, with bringing Makhno down. Despite numerous attempts and 200,000 slaughtered peasants, Trotsky failed.

From that point on, and alone with 8,000 wounded men (Voline having been captured by the Reds), Makhno still managed to liberate Ukraine, retake Huliaipole, burn down prisons and execute police, White officers, priests (all on the side of the Whites), kulaks, and bourgeois, plus suppress current laws. He had 18 commanders under him, but typhus wreaked havoc in the ranks.

Opposite him, his two adversaries were panicking. The Bolsheviks bragged about getting rid of Denikin when they had had nothing to do with it. Wrangel led the Whites and, once again, it was necessary to pretend to join forces, which freed Voline. But soon the Bolsheviks turned against Makhno, using treachery to capture and shoot his faithful officers (Karetnik, Gavrilenko, and Marchenko escaped).

There was one final effort: Makhno regained ground, this time with 2,500 fighters, taking 6,000 Red prisoners, a third of whom swung over to his side. He would hold out until August 1921 when a harsh winter finished them off and the leader of the Red Cavalry, Semyon Budyonny, won the day. Marchenko, his second in command Vasilevsky, Mikhalev-Pavlenko, Kurylenko, Shchus, Petrenko, and Ivanyuk were killed; his general staff walked into a trap and was snuffed out. Makhno himself had been hit twice. This time, it was over. Wounded and sick, Makhno had to escape with 250 fighters.

He managed to hide himself without any help from the Russian anarchists who, having shifted to Lenin's side, renounced him. The Red International of Labor Unions denounced him. From then on, the man who everyone had called "Batko" (father) was now the "bandit," an epithet that the press and Western intellectuals gleefully took up. They tried to pass him off as the author of pogroms, he who had been surrounded by Jews and had shot anti-Semites.

Makhno traveled in a haycart to Romania where he was taken care of but imprisoned. At the same time, Commander Mikhail Frunze oversaw a massacre in Ukraine, including women and children, and established a dictatorship. Makhno managed to escape again, went to Poland, was imprisoned. Again, he slipped away and then went to Germany. He wrote and met other great revolutionaries of the time: Durutti, Ascaso, Alexander Berkman, Louis Lecoin... Perhaps thanks to the latter, he left for France in 1925, where the generous May Picqueray made him welcome. Covered with wounds and suffering from tuberculosis, he went under the surgeon's knife several times, falling into abject poverty and abandoned by his last wife. He fell prey to depression, too, when Stalin took power in the USSR. Arshinov himself turned to Stalinism, which did not prevent the dictator from eliminating him along with the military leaders who had fought the Makhnovshchina.

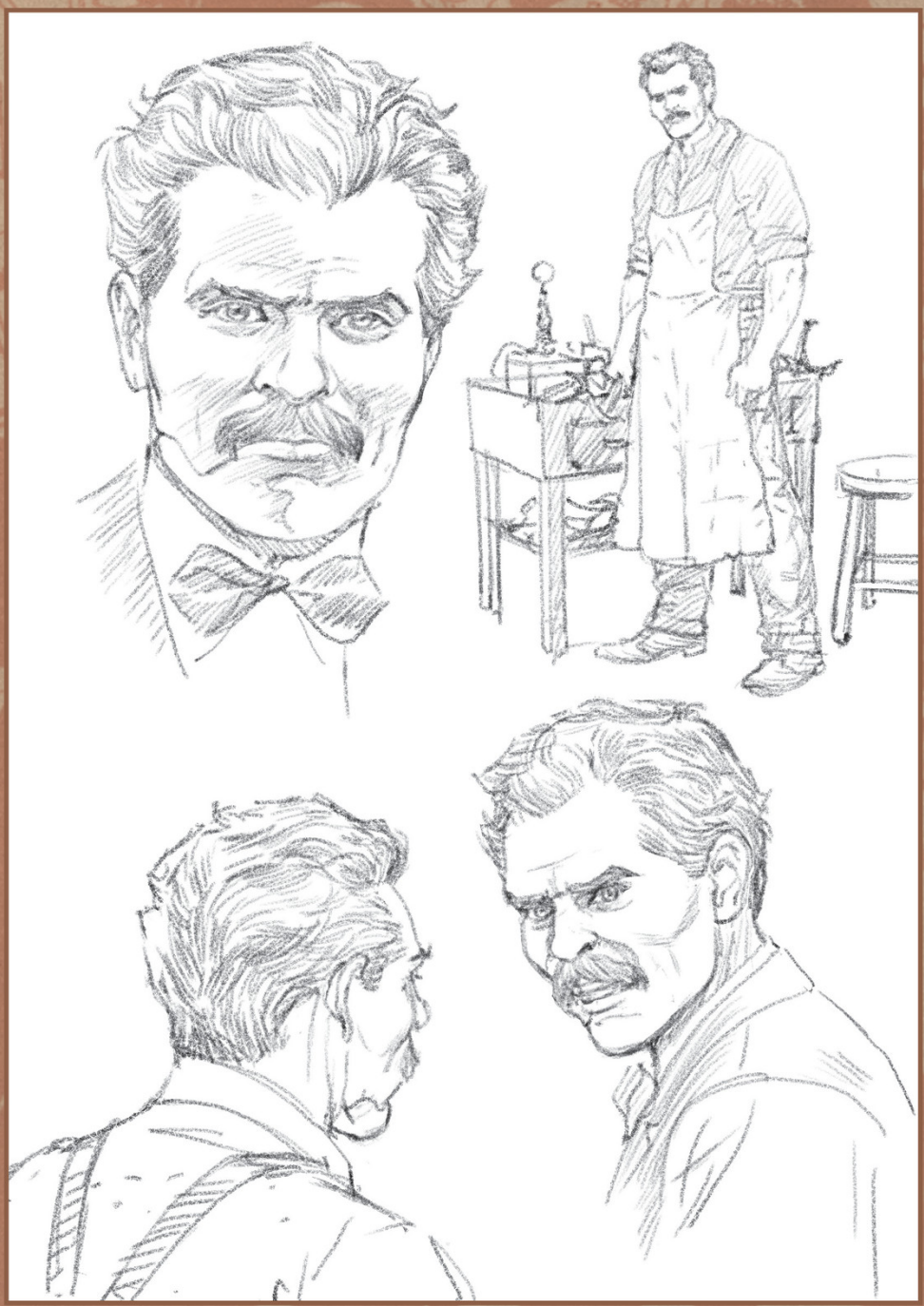
As soon as he recovered, Makhno earned his living by driving a cab and working at Renault, despite a disabled right foot. In France, regime toadies condemned him; right-wing writer Joseph Kessel would be the most despicable of these fabricators with his novel, Makeno et sa juive (trans: "Makhno and His Jewess") (1926).

Makhno began to write, but would never finish, his memoirs. Only Arshinov and Voline would leave firsthand accounts of their experiences... Exhausted, worn out, and disillusioned, Nestor Makhno died of tuberculosis at the Tenon Hospital in 1934 at the age of 45. Ever at odds with him, Voline delivered his funeral eulogy before the Père Lachaise columbarium. Batko was no saint: he drank too much, had a bad temper, and didn't always treat women well; his war record warrants criticism. But had he been victorious, supported, and understood, Europe would have avoided the authoritarian dictatorships that arose in the name of communism in a number of countries well away from the self-governing Soviets. The situation in Ukraine today shows the burning topicality of the Makhovshchina's fight.

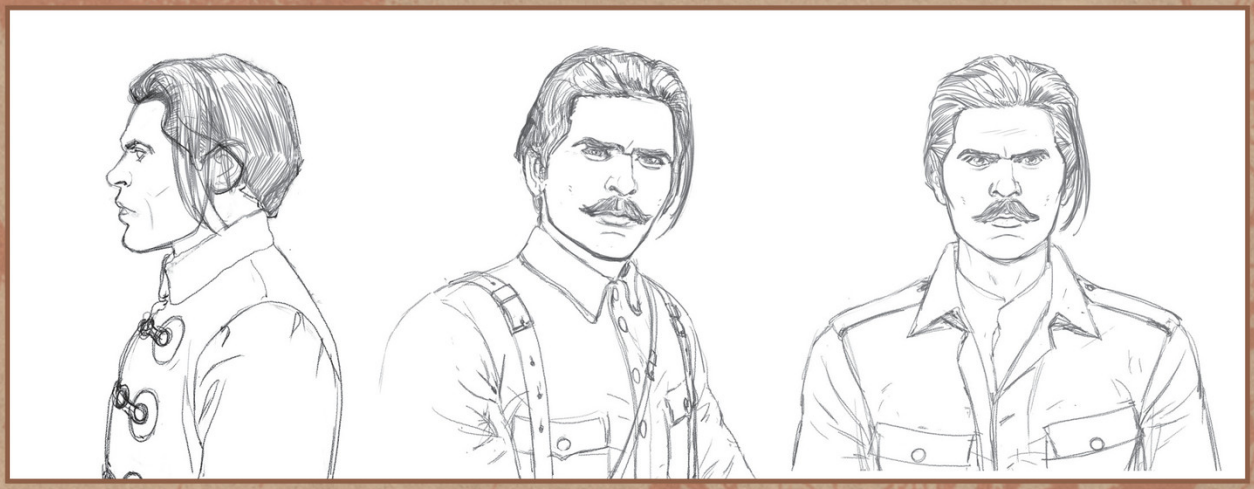
Several years after Maknho's death, the few survivors of the Makhnovshchina would go on to get themselves killed in the Durutti Column, the largest anarchist military unit in Spain during the Spanish Civil War. Indeed, on Makhno's black flag was written the slogan, "Liberty or Death."

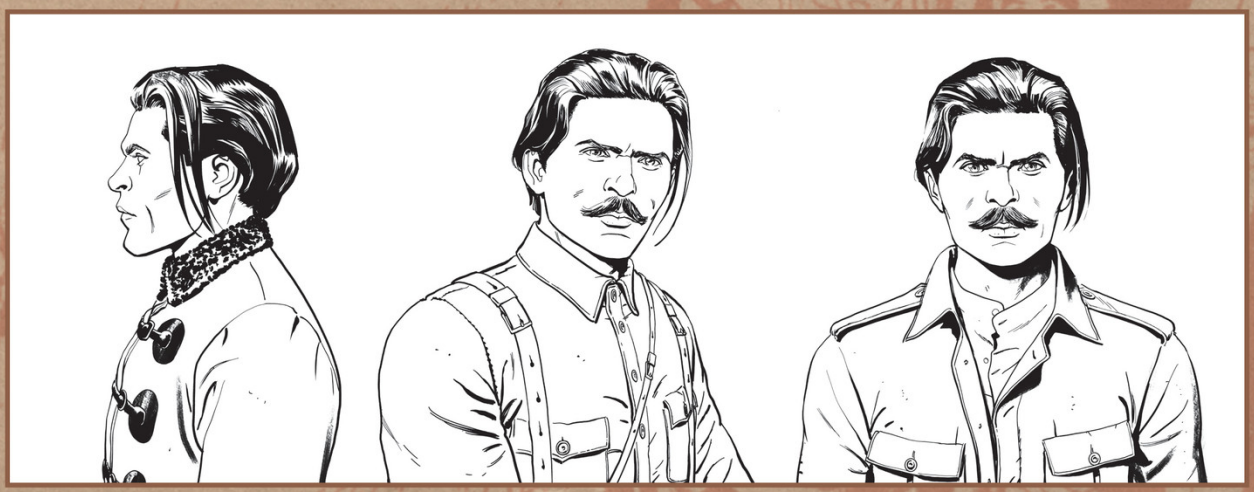
Yves Frémion
July, 2019

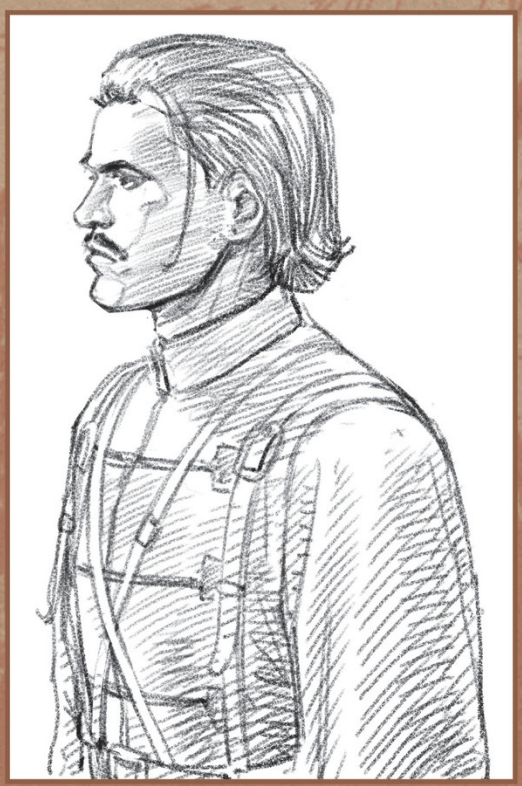
SKETCHBOOK

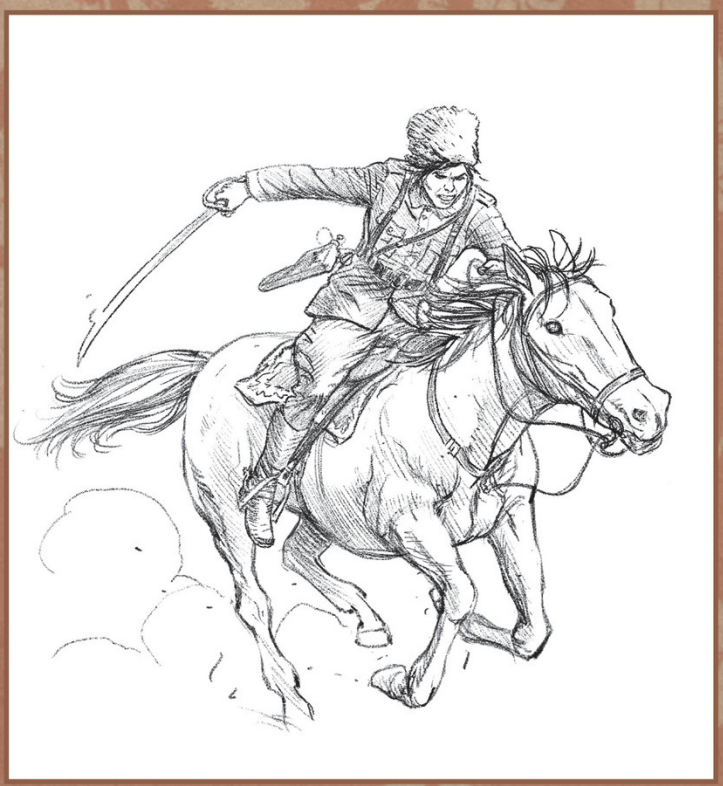


Character study of Makhno in the 1930s.

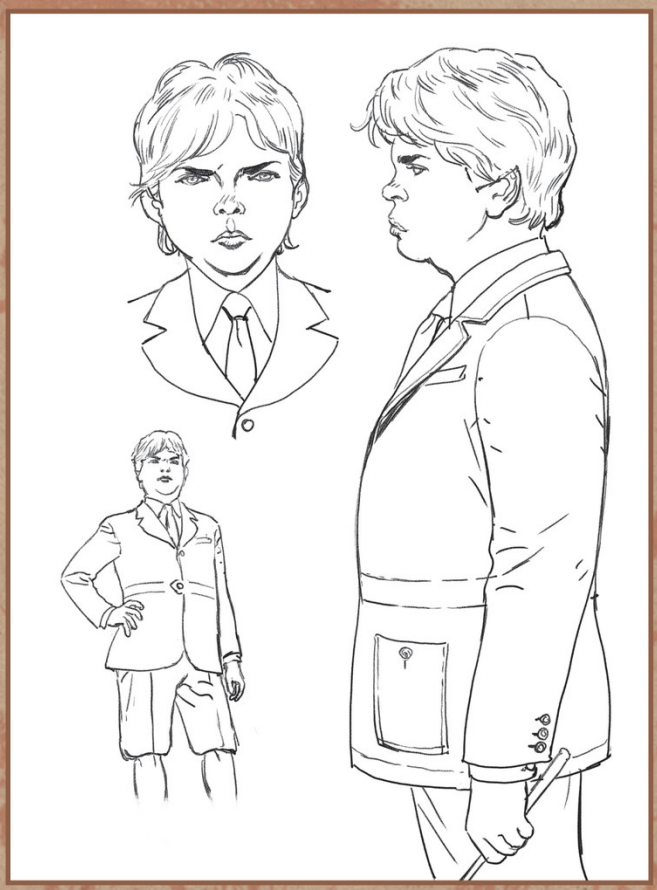


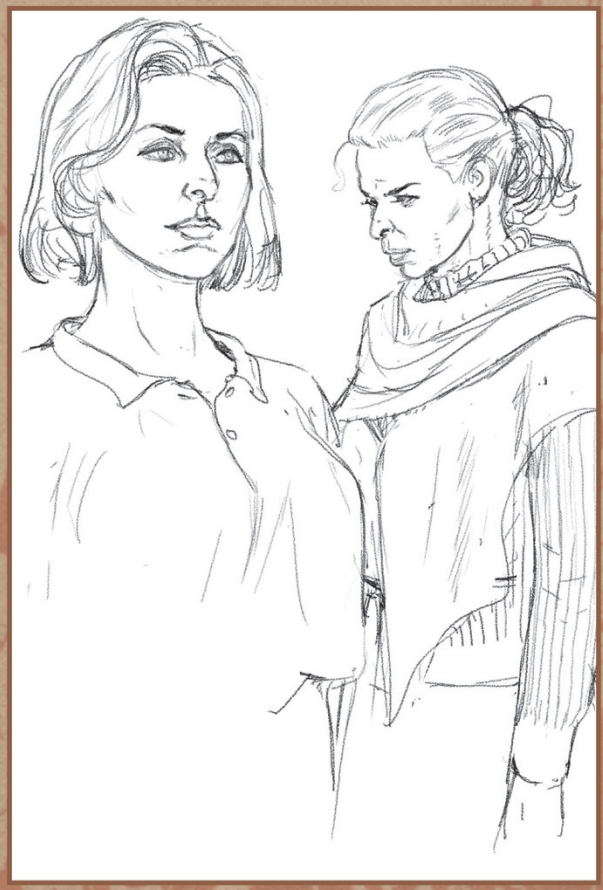


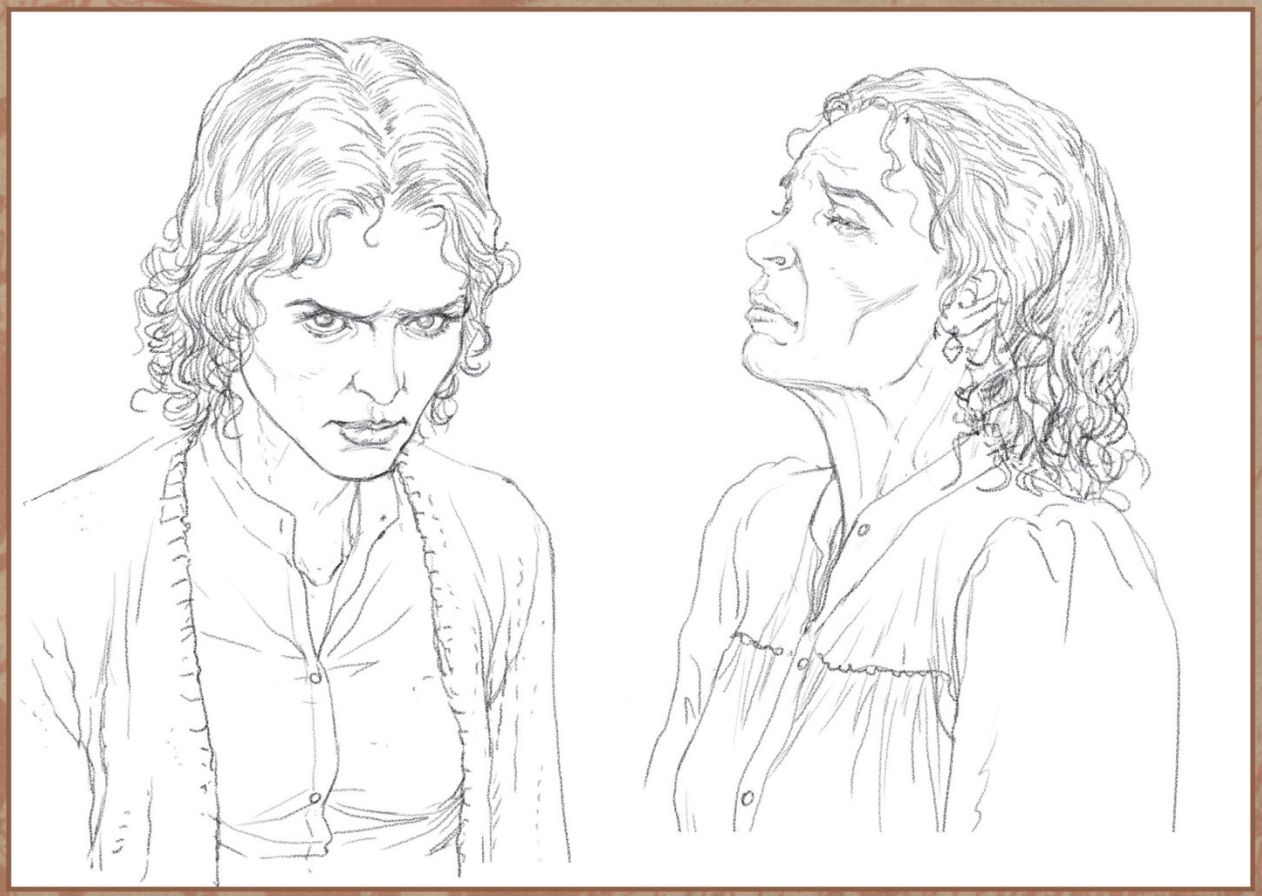




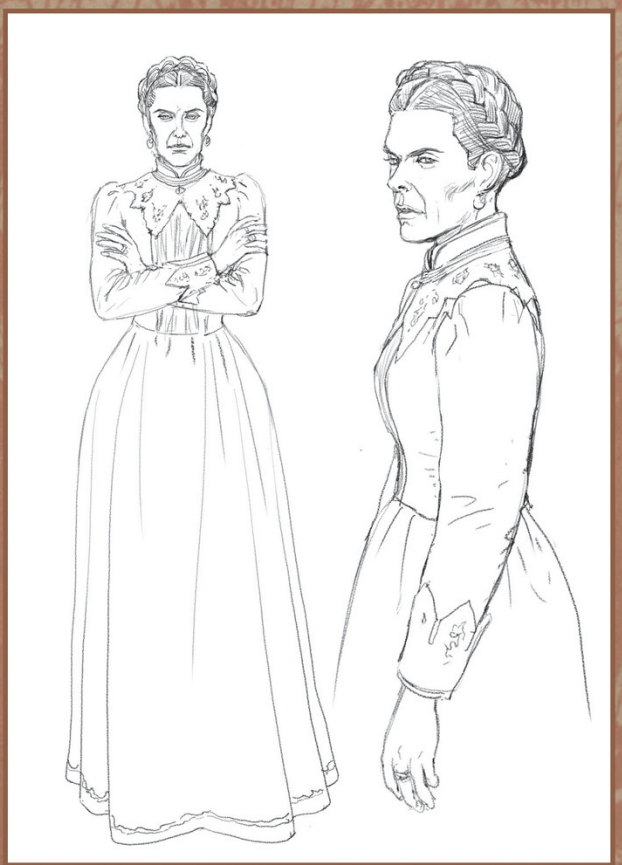
Left-hand page: Pencil and ink character studies of Makhno.
Above: Ink and color character studies for Makhno.
Opposite: Study sketch of a soldier during a battle.

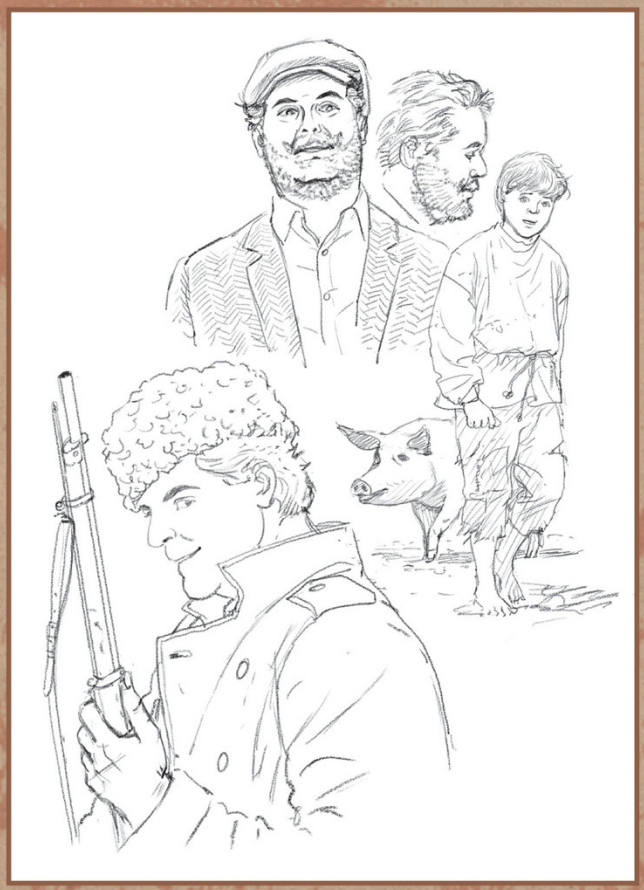


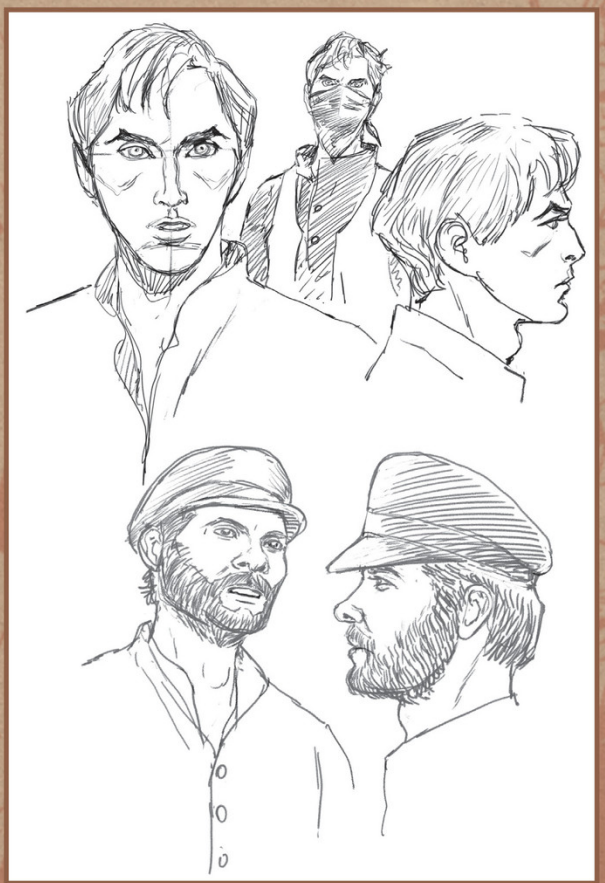




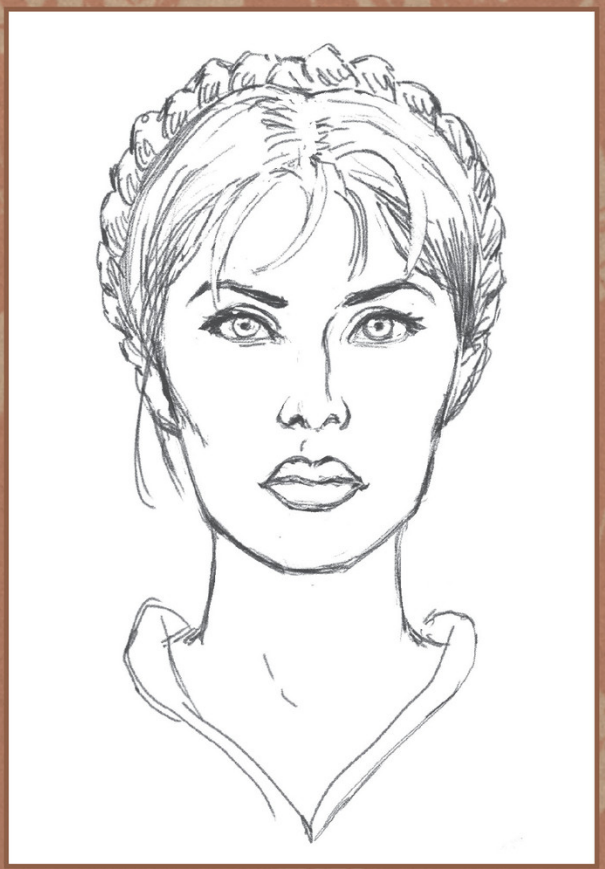
Pencil and ink character studies.

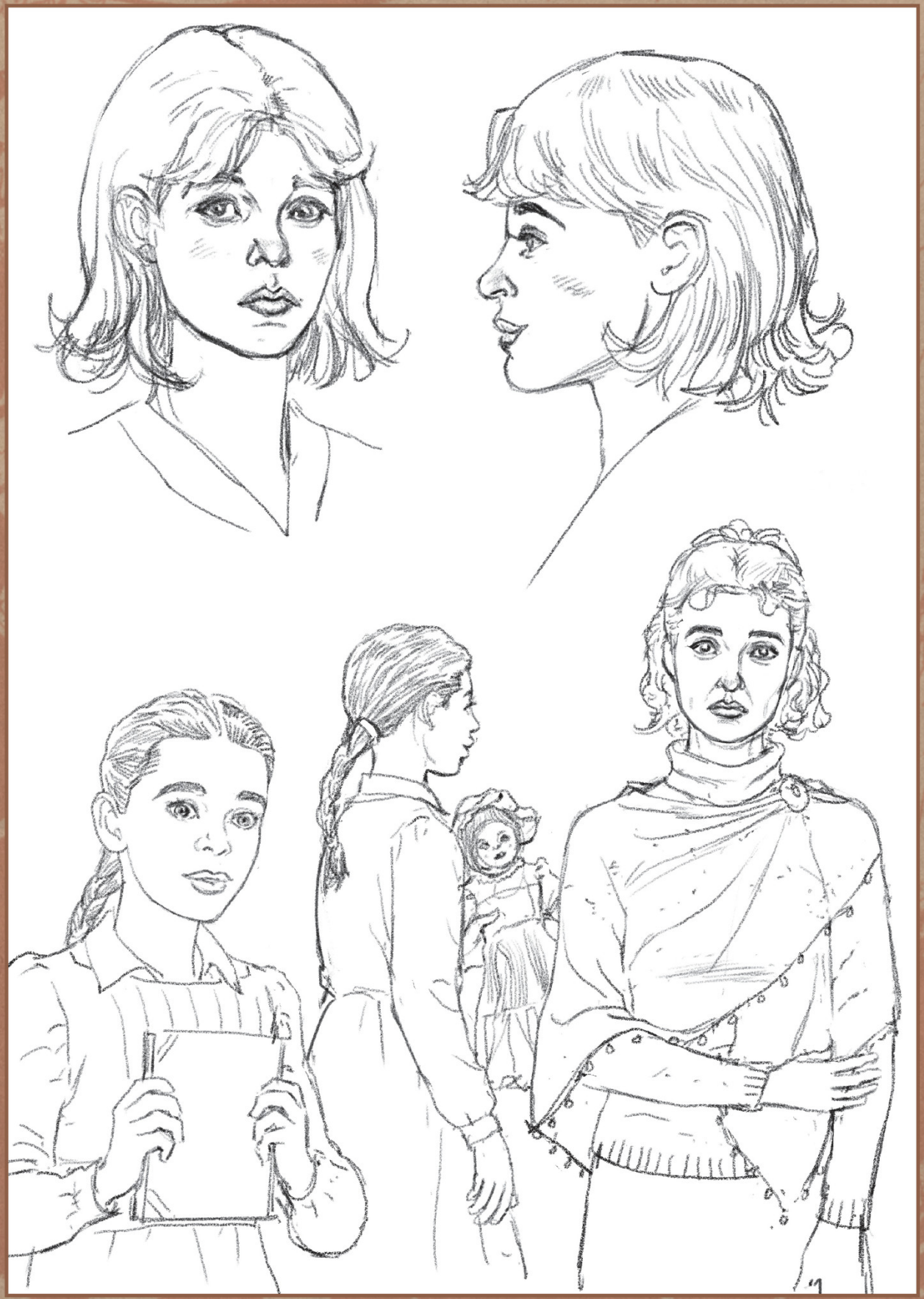






Character studies.





KOF
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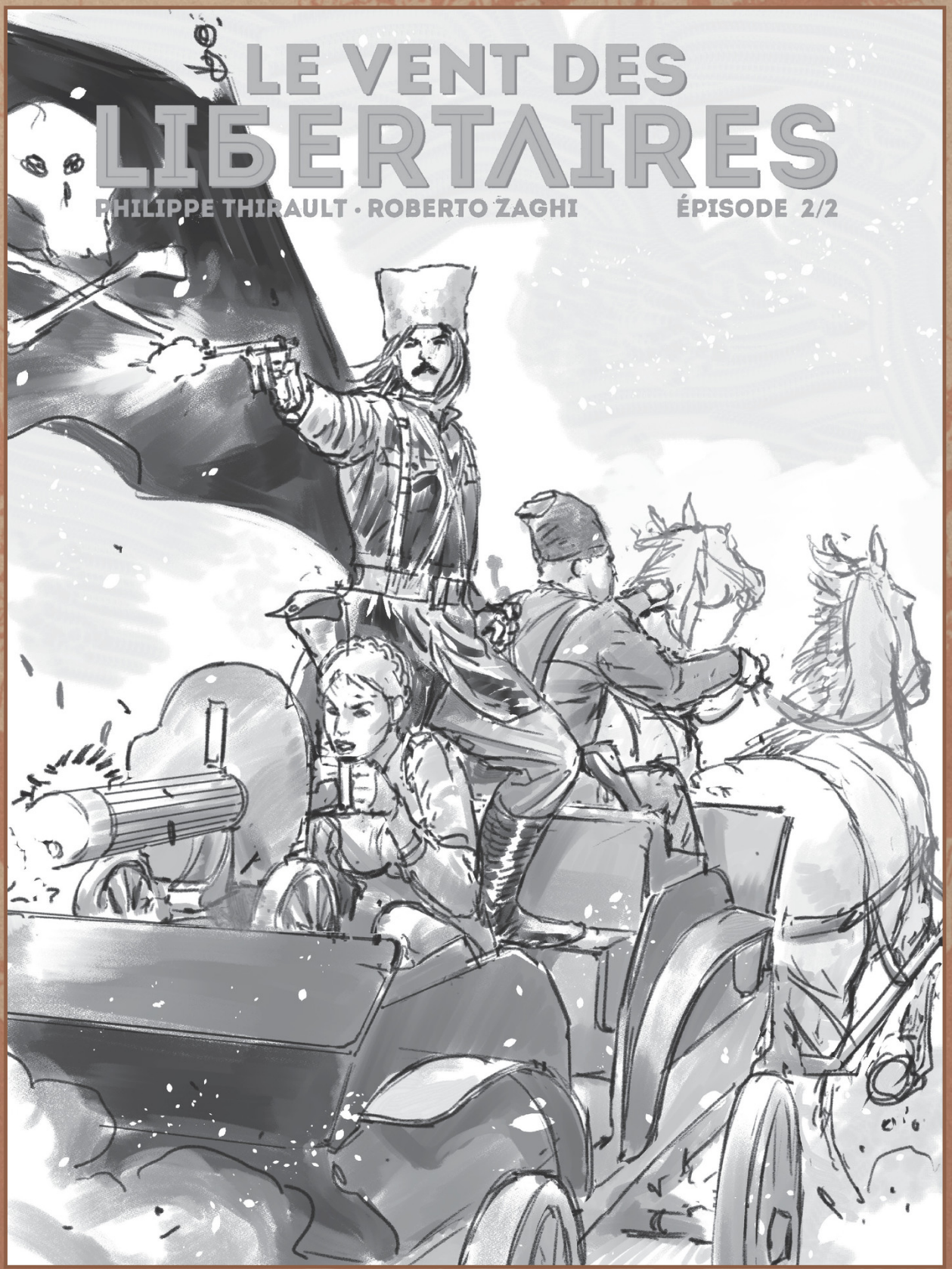
SASHA IVANOVITCH
MAKHNO
1857
1936

Left-hand page, from top to bottom and from left to right: Pencils for pages 4, 5, 7 and 8.
Above: Pencilled page 9.



Cover sketch for the second French tome.